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The Hongkong Telegraph

(ESTABLISHED 1881)

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December 18, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 54 2 p.m. 62
Humidity 72 58

December 18, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 51 2 p.m. 74
Humidity 84 47

WEATHER FORECAST
FAIR.
Barometer 30.15.

7832 日五初月一十

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1917.

二拜禮 號八十月二十年十英港香

SINGLE COPY 10 CENTS
\$36 PER ANNUM.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE OPERATIONS IN ITALY.

A Lull in the Attacks.

London, December 17.
An Italian official message says:—Between the Brenta and the Piave the struggle diminished in intensity on Friday evening and had not increased on Saturday. A prompt counter-attack drove back an attempted advance in the Col del Lamberetta region.

Only Insignificant Gains.

London, December 17.
Reuter's correspondent at the Italian Headquarters says that General Krobatin has been chosen to command the Austrian divisions transferred from the Trentino to the Western Front. General Hoetsendorf's and General von Balow's troops are continuing daily their savage attacks between the Brenta and the Piave, but are gaining only insignificant salients at great cost.

German Report on English Attacks.

London, December 17.
A German wireless official message states:—Austro-Germans have taken prisoner several hundred. South of Col Caprille and south of Monte Fontanecosa, English attacks broke down.

Persistent German Attacks.

London, December 17.
The Daily Mail correspondent at the Italian Headquarters says that the fighting on the Piave, on the side of Mount Grappa, has reached a serious phase. The Germans are persistently attacking a salient a mile and a half broad. The weather is cold and moist, and the Italian garrisons are being subjected to a physical effort unprecedented throughout the whole war. Since the British took over their sector there has been no infantry action, the waters of the Piave forming an impassable barrier, but the Austrian gunners have intensified their fire and demolished most of the houses at Montello. The British are less affected by the cannonade than by the cold.

HOW JERUSALEM WAS CAPTURED.

Full Story of the Military Operations.

London, December 17.
Reuter's correspondent at the Palestine Headquarters, in a despatch dated December 11, sent by aeroplane from Jerusalem, fully describes the capture and conditions of Jerusalem. He emphasises the heartfelt gladness of all the city's population with which the British were received. A British General who entered the town early in the morning to take the surrender was surrounded by huge crowds laughing, crying, clapping their hands and showering flowers upon the accompanying officers. These feelings of gratitude were intensified because, despite provocation, not a single gun or rifle had been fired upon the city.

The operations which resulted in the capture of Jerusalem began on December 7. The Turks held a strong line west, south and north-west of Jerusalem, abundantly provided with machine guns. Some of the bigger guns were mounted just outside the walls of the city. It was therefore impossible to deal with them without endangering the town. Torrential rains made transport work most difficult. The attack pivoted on Nebes Samuel, dismounted Yeomanry attacking north and north-east of Nebes Samuel and Londoners on the south thereof advancing east upon Jerusalem, while Welsh and Home County troops threatened the city from the south. The latter pressed back the resistance around Bethlehem and reached a point two miles north of Bethlehem by noon of December 8. Londoners climbed down a steep and stony ravine and up the other side before closing with the enemy, and thereafter by simultaneous frontal and flanking attacks the whole of the Turkish positions west of Jerusalem were secured by seven o'clock in the morning. The enemy still held the crest of the ridge overlooking the city, with numerous machine-guns posted on the houses of German colonists in the outskirts of Jerusalem. On December 8 the Londoners magnificently stormed the ridge, traversing ground strewn with boulders and driving out the Turks at the point of the bayonet with exceedingly heavy losses. In the defence of Jerusalem the Turks displayed a more desperate spirit than in any previous fighting, standing their ground to the last and meeting bayonet with bayonet. During the night, the Turks withdrew north and east of the city and at eight in the morning of December 9, the Mayor, with the Chief of Police, surrendered the town. Meanwhile dismounted Yeomanry to the north drove out the Turks from the village of Beitkeles, and gallantly rushed the entrenched positions, inflicting heavy casualties. Our losses were comparatively light. The Welsh, advancing from the south, pushed across the road east of Jerusalem leading to Jericho, pressing back the enemy reinforcements which were being hurried up.

The correspondent describes the conditions and says that the Turks lost 45,000 peck animals from starvation and overwork. The inhabitants fought for the bodies of the animals lying about the city. Then began a period of persecution. All suspected of sympathising with the Allies were imprisoned, exiled and many executed, including the Maiti of Gass. He attempted to escape across the desert to Sinai, but he was captured and hanged with his son outside the Jaffa Gate. The American colony was unmolested and throughout worked nobly in relieving distress. They were most helpful to the British wounded soldiers and prisoners. The Germans recently attempted to procure the exile of the Americans, and, despite the Turkish opposition, had a number of the younger males sent to Damascus. Our arrival prevented the deportation of the remainder. The population was very excited at the sound of the cannonade in the battle of Beersheba. When the truth of the British victories leaked out, deportations became more numerous. Several officers arrived here-foot. After the capture of Acre they had run all the way, abandoning everything, including the hospitals and four hundred wounded. Several measures were taken and the fugitives were compelled to retain the line. Eavor Pa-ha arrived early in November and recommended evacuation, but three days later he returned to Constantinople and issued a proclamation stating that the city had to be held to the last. Reinforcements arrived and posted machine guns, and it was even stated that they had mined sacred sites. Subsequently General Saikennya came to control the defence measures. The British rash in at the end left the Turks no time to carry out their worst intentions. The Governor of the City failed to prevail upon the troops to defend the houses. Besides a Latin Patriarch who was arrested and deported some weeks ago, the Turks deported a Greek Patriarch and eleven members of the Holy Synod and an Armenian Patriarch and Council.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

BRITISH LABOUR'S WAR AIMS.

A Comprehensive Declaration of Policy.

London, December 17.
The Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Union Congress and the Executive of the Labour Party have issued a statement of war aims which will be submitted to the National Labour Conference to be held in London on December 28. The statement reaffirms the declaration adopted at the Conference of the Allied Socialist and Labour Parties on February 14, 1915 and says:—The fundamental purpose of the British Labour movement in supporting a continuance of the war is that the world may be made safe for democracy. It urges the suppression of secret diplomacy and Parliamentary control of foreign policy, the universal abolition of compulsory military service, the limitation of armaments, the abolition of profit-making armament firms, the establishment of a League of Nations and an International High Court, and the formation of an International Legislature.

The Manifesto, while repudiating war conquest, insists on the necessity of restitution and reparation and certain territorial readjustments. It emphatically insists that the foremost condition of peace must be the reparation by Germany, under the direction of an International Commission, of the wrong done to Belgium and the restoration of Belgian independence. It reaffirms the reprobation of the crime by which Alsace-Lorraine was torn from France and suggests that the inhabitants of Alsace-Lorraine should decide their own destiny under the protection of the League of Nations. It proposes that the reorganisation of the Balkan peoples should be settled by an International Commission. It supports the claim, unredeemed, that the Italians should be a united Italy and that the people of Poland must be allowed to settle their own destiny. It hopes that a free Jewish state in Palestine will be established. It says that the peoples freed from the excreted rule of the Turks should be administered by a Commission under the League of Nations, and that Constantinople should be made a free and neutralised port. It proposes that the conquered territories in tropical Africa should be transferred to the League of Nations for administration as a single independent African State. It opposes an economic war after peace, but says that British Labour will not be satisfied unless full and free judicial investigation is made into the accusations of cruelty made against particular Governments and persons, especially the loss of life and property of merchant seamen and other non-combatants, including women and children, from inhuman and ruthless conduct. Therefore, a Court of Claims and Accusations should be established to investigate such allegations.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

The Guillotine—Not a Fortress.

London, December 17.
According to Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd, the majority of the Executive of the Soviet have approved a decree declaring the Cadets the enemy of the people. M. Trotsky, addressing the minority, said "You are perturbed at the mild terror we are applying to our class enemies. A month hence this will equal the terror of the great French Revolutionaries. Not a fortress, but a guillotine, awaits our enemies."

A Peasant Protest.

London, December 17.
Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd states that the Peasants' Congress by 360 votes to 321 denounced the arrest of the members of the Constituent Assembly as a criminal infringement of the rights of the Constituent Assembly.

An Untrue Report.

London, December 17.
Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd states that the report of the escape of the ex-Tsar is officially denied.

Ukrainian Parliament Attacked.

London, December 17.
Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd states that a telegram from Nizhny says that Maximalist troops at Odessa attacked the Ukrainian Parliament. The Ukrainian troops drove off the Maximalists. The majority of the sailors of the Black Sea Fleet joined the Ukrainians.

The Election Returns.

London, December 17.
Up to the present there are three hundred returns to the Russian Constituent Assembly elections, including 180 Revolutionary Socialists, ninety-six Maximalists and thirteen Cadets. There is no vital difference between the programme of the Revolutionary Socialists and the Maximalists. The conflict between them is for power.

Herr Scheidemann and other German Majority Socialists have arrived at Stockholm, where they are negotiating with the Bolshevik representatives. M. Branting condemns this "secret diplomacy."

Warlike Tribes Out of Hand.

London, December 17.
The Times correspondent at Odessa states that the warlike tribe of Tchetchenets has surrounded and besieged Grozny, the population of which is panic-stricken. Fires broke out at the oil-wells and there were many victims.

Searching for M. Kerensky.

London, December 17.
The Times correspondent at Petrograd says that numerous perquisitions at the residences of officers and a diligent search are being made for M. Kerensky, who is supposed to be hiding in the city.

THE PROSECUTION OF M. CAILLAUX.

London, December 17.
Reuter's Paris correspondent says the Special Committee of the Chamber, examining the charges against M. Caillaux and Langelot, has recommended the withdrawal of Parliamentary immunity.

M. Clemenceau told the Committee prior to its decision that Baron Sannino had warned the Anglo-French and Russian Ambassadors of the disquietude caused by the activities of M. Caillaux in Rome. M. Clemenceau added that if M. Caillaux were an ordinary citizen there would be no disposition about the charges against him. If the Chamber refused to sanction the prosecution of M. Caillaux, the Government would resign.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

A Quiet Day.

London, December 17.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig says there is nothing to report.

"General Winter" Arrives.

London, December 17.
A telegram from Headquarters states that a snowstorm and a north-westerly gale are raging in the Cambrai region.

A JAPANESE DENIAL!

London, December 17.
According to the Daily Mail correspondent at Paris, it is announced from Tokyo that the Japanese Government denies landing Japanese troops at Vladivostok.

EARLIER TELEGRAM.

ACTIVITY ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

London, December 17.
Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: We drove off an attack westward of Villers Guislain and repulsed a bombing attack northward of La Vacquerie. We slightly improved our position eastward of Avion and repulsed a raid southward of Arras. There is mutual artillery activity northward of the Scarpe and increased hostile activity northward of Langemark. Our aeroplanes fired many rounds into trenches and bombed numerous targets, including two long range gun positions south-westward of Lille. Enemy aircraft is active. We brought down three and drove down two. All of ours returned.

A French communique reports an intermittent artillery duel along the greater part of the front, which is fairly violent in the region north of Bois-de-Caurives.

THE PINCH OF WAR.

Some Facts Concerning the Food Problem.

The pinch of war is being felt in all belligerent countries, says an American journal, especially as regards food prices, but it is difficult to compare conditions in Europe with those here, as many commodities in France, England, and Germany are sold at prices fixed by the Government. In England bread is being sold under a subsidy from the Government at eighteen cents for a four-pound loaf, actually, we are told, well under the cost of production. The London Labour Gazette, a semi-official organ of one of the departments of the Government, the Board of Trade, notes a general fall of prices as regards foodstuffs, and this in spite of the much-discussed "submarine problem." It says:—

"In consequence of reductions in the prices of flour, bread, and meat under the operation of recent food-control orders, the general level of retail prices of food on October 1 was considerably lower than a month earlier. The effect of these decreases was partially counteracted by upward movements in the prices of other important foodstuffs, but on the balance there was a reduction in the general percentage increase since July, 1914, from 108 per cent. on September 1 to 97 per cent. at the beginning of October.

"The subsidised 'ninepenny loaf' (18 cents) was almost universal for cash over the counter on October 1. An additional charge for delivery usually of 1 cent, but sometimes of 2 cents, per 4-pound, was reported from over one-third of the places from which returns are received. Up to the introduction of the ninepenny loaf the average price had been about 23 cents for some months. In July, 1914, it was about 11 1/2 cents. The present price of bread is therefore 22 per cent. lower than a month ago, and about 55 per cent. higher than just before the war. The alteration in the price of bread was accompanied by a similar though somewhat greater reduction in that of flour.

"The decrease since September 1 in the prices of British foodstuffs averaged about 2 1/2 cents and 4 cents per pound respectively, the fall being more marked in

the large towns than in the small towns and villages, while the limited supplies of imported meat showed a smaller fall in price. The prices of the various cuts now show an average excess over pre-war prices of about 18 cents per pound. On the other hand, the scarcity of bacon and butter resulted in further important increases in the prices of these articles to the highest point reached during the war—roundly about double the pre-war level.

"The price of milk was advanced, as permitted by the recent milk order, about half of the places from which returns are received. The usual amount of increase was 2 cents per quart, and the average price of milk on October 1 was 11 per cent. higher than in September, and 78 per cent. higher than before the war. Eggs, fish, and tea were also dearer than a month ago, while potatoes, margarine, cheese, and sugar showed but little average change in price during the month.

The Paris correspondent of the Manchester Guardian tells us that the cost of living in the French capital, despite Governmental price controls, is 50 per cent. higher than in London. He writes:—

"With the approach of winter food restrictions increase. Applications for bread-cards have been made during the last three days, and the cards will shortly be distributed. The bread allowance is at present liberal—500 grams per day for each person, with an additional allowance of 200 grams for anybody that can show that he needs it, and 400 grams for persons engaged in manual labour, who can thus obtain 900 grams, or nearly 2 pounds a day. In view of the great shortage in the wheat supply it is not certain that this allowance can be maintained.

"Meanwhile the sugar ration has been reduced from 750 grams to 500 grams (1-1/10 pounds) per month for each person, several of the papers have suggested that, before this reduction was made, the trade in cakes and bonbons, which are still sold except on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, should have been prohibited.

"Coal-cards are already in force. Prices continue to rise in alarming proportions; during the last two or three months the shops have put up their prices about once a fortnight. No steps have yet been taken to prevent profiteering, and the cost of living is causing considerable unrest among the working classes, as

FREEMASONS IN THE WAR.

In honour of Freemasons who have fallen in the war, a memorial service, unique and impressive in its character, was held on October 28, in St. Clement Dunes Church, Strand. There was a large and distinguished gathering of members of the craft, including many grand officers. The church was decorated with choice white lilies, and the service was fully choral. A feature of the service was the rendering by Brigadier-General the Earl of Shaftesbury of the solo, "Be thou faithful unto death" ("St. Paul") (Mendelssohn) and the music by the band of the Coldstream Guards, under the direction of Major T. Mackenzie Rogan. Lieut.-General Sir Francis Lloyd, Junior Grand Warden, read one of the lessons. In the course of his sermon the Bishop of Birmingham (Grand Chaplain) made an appeal on behalf of the Freemasons' War Hospital. He remarked that in 1870, in the time of the Franco-Prussian War, he was a schoolboy in Germany. Even then, in German streets, English schoolboys were jostled at, and Germans openly gave expression to the hope that the time would come when English pride would be humiliated. But even then the moral standpoint of Great Britain was accepted as the standpoint of the morality of the world. Freemasons had died in the cause of justice, as well as in the cause of their brethren. At the close of the service "The Last Post" was sounded, and the band of the Coldstream Guards then played the Dead March in "Saul," followed by the Hallefiah Chorus.

DON'T FORGET.

TO-DAY.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinematograph—9.15 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.
Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.
New Hongkong Cinematograph—9.15 p.m.

Foreign Shipping and U. S. Coast Trade.

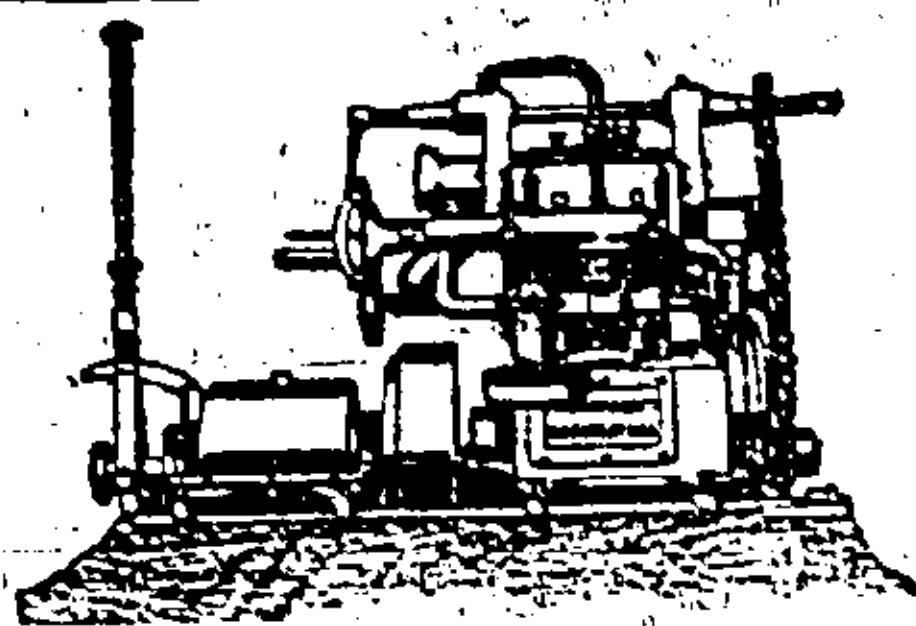
America's coastwise trade was formally opened to foreign shipping on October 22 by a resolution of the Shipping Board ordering the licensing for such trade of both foreign built vessels under the United States flag and vessels of foreign register. This action, taken upon authority to suspend provisions of existing laws granted by Congress during the closing days of the war season, will serve the double purpose of replacing American tonnage withdrawn for overseas service and of relieving many foreign ships of the wasteful necessity of going between American ports empty or only partially laden. The Board designated Edward F. Carr, its director of operations, to administer the new act and issue permits. He will begin the work immediately. Conditions in the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf trades will be affected materially. Alaska was exempted specifically by the act of Congress.

wages have not risen in anything like the same proportion.

"According to persons coming from London the cost of living in Paris is about 50 per cent. higher than it is there."

How folk in Germany are faring it is almost impossible to say, for the newspapers preserve a discreet silence on the subject. An occasional official utterance, however, shows that there is a distinct scarcity of almost every commodity.

NOTICES.



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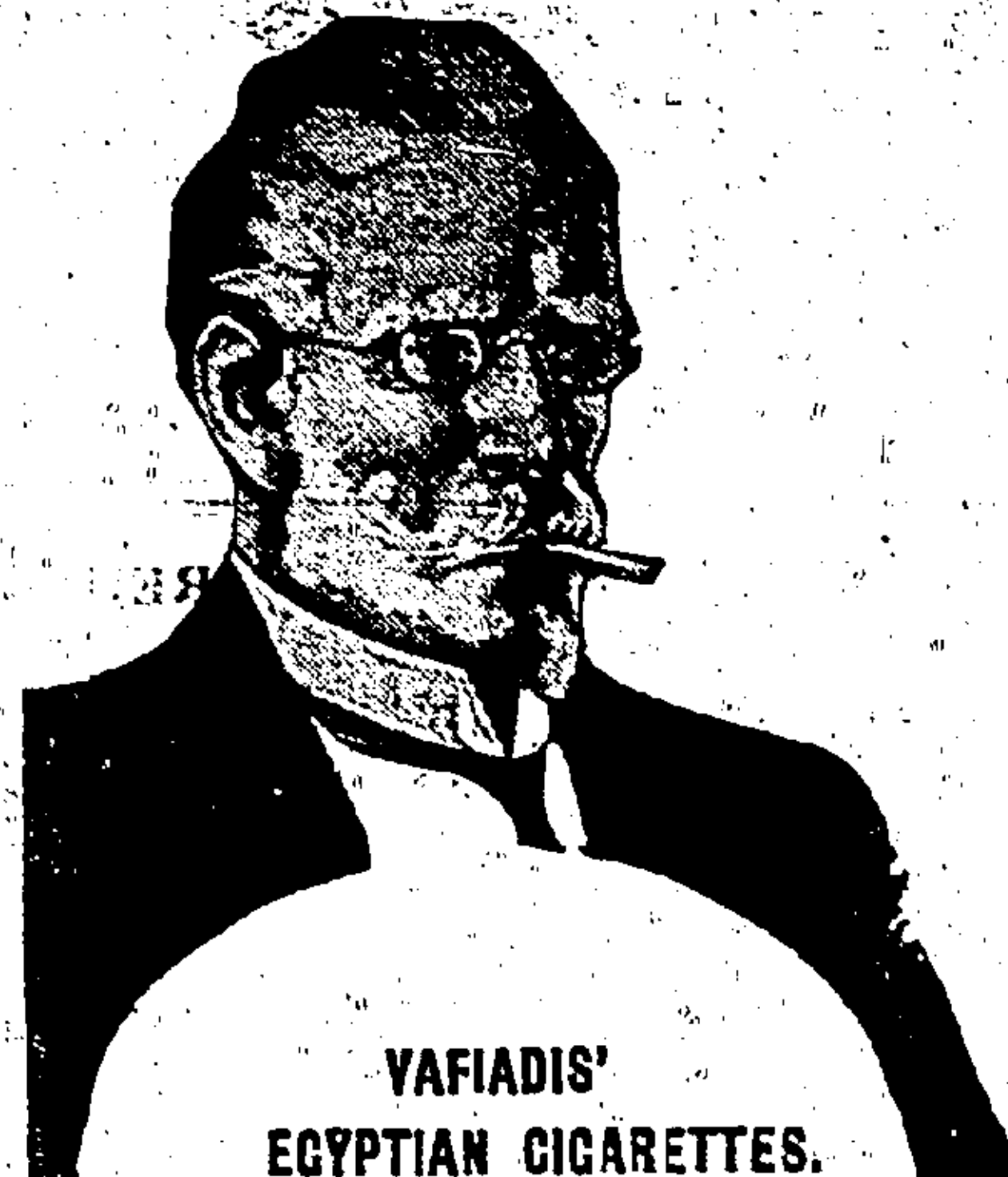
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NOTICES.



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"	50	2.35
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Extra Fine (Grand Format)	50	2.35
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Non Plus Ultra	100	3.60
"	50	1.85
"	20	.75
Supertine	100	2.40
"	50	1.20

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GENERAL NEWS.

From Their Majesties.
In reply to the telegram of congratulation sent on St. Andrew's Day to the King and Queen, the President of St. Andrew's Society has received the following:—"Their Majesties heartily thank you for kind greetings."

Killed in Action.
Many friends in the Far East (say the N. C. Daily News) will learn with deep regret that the Standard Oil Co. has received news of the death of Lieut. W. Hamill, 11th Battalion, Manchester Regt., killed in action on August 16.

China's Salt Revenue Surplus.
The Salt Revenue surplus for the month of November amounted to \$3,000,000, according to the Peking Daily News. This sum was paid over to the Government on the 4th instant through the Bank of China and Bank of Communications at Shanghai and the French Bank at Canton.

Marriage at Nagasaki.
The marriage took place at Nagasaki, on the 29th ult. at the residence of Mr. S. A. Ringer, in the presence of the American Consul, Mr. E. L. Neville, of Mr. Lucy Goodrich, Agent at the office of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, and well-known in Far Eastern ports, and Mrs. Ethel Greene, of San Francisco.

Back To China.
Among the passengers who returned to Shanghai last week were:—Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Bingham and Mr. D. Landale, from England; Dr. and Mrs. R. S. Ivy and Mrs. S. B. Neill, Mr. and Mrs. S. Benjamin, from Canada, Mr. and Mrs. Serobriani-koff, and Messrs. P. F. Wisner and A. J. P. Heard.

A Double Decoration.
News has been received in Shanghai from France that Dr. Fresson had received a double decoration, the Legion of Honour and the Croix de Guerre. Dr. Fresson, who is now at Verdun, in charge of fractures, and has received special commendation on the excellence of his work which is spoken of as some of the best seen in the war.

The S. P. C. A. in Japan.
One learns with satisfaction from the Japan Chronicle that the Inspectors of the Kobe S. P. C. A. had a busy time during November. No less than 87 cases of over-loading horses were dealt with during the month, and in 12 cases help was procured for horses dragging loads up steep roads. Sixteen cases of beating horses were dealt with by the Inspectors, and six men found cruelly jerking the reins of their horses were warned. Nine sick horses and other animals were cared for during the month. The Society appears to be due to foreign enterprise.

Captain Sowerby M.C.
Mr. A. de O. Sowerby has received a letter from his brother, Captain Edward S. Sowerby, R.A.M.C., which announces that the latter has been decorated with the Military Cross. Captain Sowerby was born in Taiyuanfu, Shensi, in 1889. In 1899, with the rest of his family he was taken home to be educated, thus just escaping the Boxer massacres in Shensi. He remained in England till 1914, being educated in Bath and Bristol, and taking his medical degrees M.B. and B.S. in London. In 1914 he came to China in the English Baptist Mission, but returned to England in 1915 to join up.

Belated Fulfillment of Promise.
We are informed from the water front (says the Central China Post of December 8) that a number of the Captains of the China Merchants steamers have received the medals which were promised them for services performed during the second revolution four years ago. The other officers and crews have received nothing and, in the case of two vessels, which were commandeered outright and were all the time on the job instead of transporting troops occasionally, they have neither received the medals nor the three months' campaign pay which were promised to them by H.E. Li Yuan-hung, the late President. However, everything comes to them that waits, and perhaps in the course of another four years they too will be remembered.

GENERAL NEWS.

A Kobe Conflagration.
The Kobe Post Office has been destroyed by fire. The damage is estimated at one million yen. The mail was removed safely and no telegrams were burnt, but the telegraph instruments were destroyed.

Patriotic Clyde Shipbuilders.
Clyde shipbuilders have patriotically refused to tender for the building of Norwegian cargo vessels, to be delivered as soon as possible after the war, though a minimum of £30 a ton dead-weight was offered.

Russians in England.
If a young Russian, having elected to go back to Russia to fight changes his mind, he has to go into the British Army without the right of an appeal for exemption, was the effect of a King's Bench Court decision.

Brigandage in Honan.
A correspondent at Kingteekwan writes that last night (the 28th ult.) about 100 brigands met fire to an inn near Kingteekwan. They fired the back and waited in front for the inmates to come out and then women and children were all slaughtered or burnt except one woman who was carried away. At daylight the brigands reached a small town and carried off several persons for ransom. The richest man in the country has been kidnapped and several tens of thousands of taels demanded as ransom. As there was a military camp near the place of seizure the military are suspected of conniving at the deed.

Queer Situation at Yochow.
The China Merchants Steamer Kweilee arrived here yesterday (says the central China Post of December 6) with a number of Northern troops which, after remaining for a while at the China Merchants' wharf, were subsequently landed at Wuchang. We learn that these soldiers were the 2,000 which left here by the steamer for Yochow and on arrival at that port there were refused permission to disembark by the troops which had taken charge of garrisoning the place, so there was nothing left for them to do but return to this centre. Query: Have the Southerners already taken Yochow?

Kaiser's Spendthrift Nephew.
Prince Frederick Leopold of Prussia, whom the Kaiser desires to place under restraint because of his money squandering tendencies, is (says the Scots Pictorial) a son of Prince and Princess Frederick Leopold, a brother of that sitman, Prince Karl, who was brought down by British flying men a few months ago, and who died as the result of his wounds thereafter, and a nephew of the late Duchess of Connaught. His mother is a sister of the German Emperor, and there has always been rather acute jealousy between the two sisters, the higher position of the Empress being neutralised, to her mind, by the fact that Princess Frederick Leopold, the wife of a very rich man, always managed to get more of her own way. This despite the fact that the Frederick Leopolds were anything but a popular or happy couple, as Miss Keen, who for seven years was a governess to their daughter Princess Victoria Margarete of Prussia, points out in her recent book. The sons of the house went their own way to a great extent, and Prince Frederick Leopold the younger developed into something of a spendthrift. His parents, however, are with him in putting up a stout resistance to the Kaiser in the matter of "restraint," which, more or less means imprisonment as a mentally deficient person.

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OPHTHALMIC OPTICIAN
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WAR DEVICE PATENTS.

Applications at Washington
Increasing Daily.

Washington, October 30—War has caused an enormous situation in the Patent Office, where the number of applications for patents on war devices increases daily, and the fear of giving valuable information to the enemy is causing the withholding of patent rights to scores of inventions.

The Patent Commissioner's office announced to-day that the Bureau within the last few weeks had refused patents to about sixty war inventions, acting under the recent law giving the Federal Trade Commission and the Patent Office authority to prevent publication of patents which the enemy might use.

A corps of West Point and Annapolis graduates, trained in the technical problems of war, scan the thousand or more patent papers issued weekly for details of military significance, and choose those on which patent proceedings should be suspended during the war. Inventors thus deprived of patent rights may offer their devices to the Government, and one after the war for compensation.

Nearly two hundred applications for patents from German citizens also are pending. Commissioner Newton is postponing action until he can learn whether Germany is granting reciprocal rights under an act extending for nine months the time in which foreign applicants

for patents must apply in the United States, normally one year from the issuance of a patent in the foreign country. The State Department has been asked to ascertain through the Spanish Embassy at Berlin, which has charge of American interests, whether similar courtesy is shown American inventors in Germany.

Mr. Newton explained to-day that the American Government has adopted a liberal policy in protecting the patent rights of enemy inventors during the war. "The President has not ordered any sequestration of foreign hostile patent property," he said. "The Trading-with-the-Enemy act only authorises the President through the Federal Trade Commission to grant licenses to manufacturers of articles covered by enemy-owned patents. This act provides for licensing American manufacturers under enemy patents and provides that the money received for the licenses be kept by the Government and subsequently paid to the German owner of the patent."

"The practical effect of the act, therefore, is to provide for the working of German patented inventions in this country under the supervision of the Federal Trade Commission and for the protection of the German patentees during the continuation of the war."

Ice At Tientsin.
Latest advices from Tientsin are to the effect that there is ice floating in the river and the greatest depth of water is 7 ft. 3 in.

Prepaid Advertisements.

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NOTICES.

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(Rent Perpetuelle 4%).

The BANQUE INDUSTRIELLE DE CHINE begs
to announce that, to ensure the arrival of applications
in Paris before December 16th, they will telegraph a
first list of subscriptions from here on the 11th INSTANT.

Intending subscribers are therefore invited to apply
without delay.

Issue Price: 68.60

All applications from Foreign Countries will be
allotted in full.

Further particulars on application to the

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NOTICE.

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APPLICATION has been made
to the Directors of this
Company to issue to ADELINA
O. DE GUTTIEREZ of Hong-
kong a duplicate certificate of
one share in this Company or
other Certificate or Certificates
in lieu thereof upon the state-
ment that the original certificate
for one share No. 7217 dated 26th
October 1896 has been lost or
destroyed. AND NOTICE IS
HEREBY GIVEN that if within
30 days from the date hereof no
claim or representation in respect
of such original certificate is
made to the Directors they will
proceed to deal with such ap-
plication for certificate.

M. MANUK,
Secretary.
Dated 1st day of December, 1917.

UNCLAIMED TELEGRAMS.

Eastern Extension, Australasia
& China Telegraph Co.

Angelina, from New York.
Barretto & Co., from New
York.
Chin Mean Din, 62, Winglok
St., from Montreal.
Chengsunshi, Iji Confection-
ery, Hongkwan Market, from
Shanghai.
Chut Hee, c/o Hong Thong
Seng, from Batavia.
Chingtai, from Guaymassomer.
Engguan Guankee, from Pen-
ang.
Fontaine Poste Restante, from
Paris.
Joseph, Astor Hotel, from
Shanghai.
Kochung, Wingon, from San
Francisco.
Limting Hotel, Chongwen St.,
from Taipei.
J. M. BECK,
Superintendent,
Hongkong, Dec. 13, 1917.
The Great Northern Telegraph
Company, Ltd.
Sengmoh, Winglok Street, from
Amoy.
Yungsheng, from Tokio.
Gin House, c/o Nanyang To-
bacco Co., Race Course, from
Swatow.
Hanshinchow, 17, Third Floor,
Old Billy Street, from Shanghai.
Nam, from Fuan hai.
Hsuehque, 4, Chickham Road,
from Shanghai.
Potjet Kremlin, from Kobe.
T. KRING,
Act. Superintendent,
Hongkong, Dec. 14, 1917.

NOTICES.

PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT.
NOTIFICATION.

IT IS HEREBY notified that
on the 8th January proximo,
at 3 P.M. at the Public Works
Department, and before a Com-
mittee presided by the Engineer
Director of the Public Works,
tenders will be received for the
contract of "Erection of a build-
ing for the Colonial Secretary's
Office."

The conditions of the tender-
ing, the specifications and the
plans of the building are open to
the public at the Public Works
Department and in the Portuguese
Consulate in Hongkong, where
they can be examined all on
week days.

Macao, Public Works Depart-
ment, 6th December, 1917.

RAUL M. DE FARIA E MALA,
Engineer Director.

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC
CO., LTD.

Before purchasing Electrical
Appliances for use in connection
with the Company's supply,
Consumers are recommended to
communicate with the Under-
signed with a view to ascertain-
ing—

1. If the Appliances, and
their use, are in accord-
ance with the Company's
Regulations.
2. If the wiring of the pre-
mises, where it is intended
to install such Appliances
is suitable.

It is important that the fore-
going information should be
obtained from the Company, as
not only does the neglect to do
so endanger property by fire but
in addition may lead to a con-
travention of the Ordinance.

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Agents.

Hongkong, 14th December, 1917.

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CHINA WAR SAVINGS
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undersigned.

THE UNION INSURANCE
SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.,
Honorary Secretaries &
Treasurers.
Hongkong, 15th January, 1917

G. R.

Any European, Non-Asiatic or
Indian desiring to leave the
Colony should apply in person
at the Central Police Station
between the hours of 9 a.m. to
1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily.
Applicants will be required to
produce Passports or identifica-
tion papers.

All persons with certain excep-
tions who remain in the
Colony for more than 7 days are
required to Register themselves
under the REGISTRATION OF
PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.
Forms of Registration giving the
particulars required may be
obtained at the G. P. O. and at
all Police Stations.

The Penalty for non-com-
pliance is a fine not exceeding
£50.

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SKIN OR BLOOD DISEASE

such as Eczema, Scrofula, Head Lags,
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any kind, Piles, Blood Poisons,
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don't waste your time and money on
useless lotions and ointments which
do not get below the surface of the skin.
What you want, and what you must have
to be permanently cured, is a medicine
that will thoroughly free the blood of the
poisonous matter which alone is the true
cause of all your suffering. Clarke's Blood
Mixture is just such a medicine. It is
the most delicate and powerful of all
blood-purifiers. It is the only one that
is not a harsh, irritating, or
poisonous substance.

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WILL CURE YOU
PERMANENTLY.

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3 Bot. St. Estephe Claret	1 Bot. Superior Old Cognac
2 " Light Dry Sherry	1 " Very Old Liqueur Scotch
2 " Port Full Bodied	1 " Whisky "E" Quality
2 " Gin	1 " Dewar's Scotch Whisky
Case No. 2-128.	
1 Bot. St. Marceau Champagne	1 Bot. Superior Old Liqueur Cognac
1 " Burgundy Beauce	1 " Very Old Liqueur Scotch
3 Bot. St. Estephe Claret	1 " Whisky "E" Quality
1 Bot. Light Dry Sherry, Pandemon's	1 " Dewar's Scotch Whisky
1 " Port Superior Light Invalid	1 " Gin
	1 " Orange Curacao
Case No. 3-132.	
1 Bot. St. Marceau Champagne	1 Bot. Killy Liqueur Whisky (Guaranteed 20 years old)
1 " Old Brown Sherry, "E" Quality	3 Bot. St. Julien Claret
1 Bot. Superior Old Port, "B" Quality	1 Bot. Gin
1 " Very Old Liqueur Scotch	1 " Orange Curacao
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SPECIAL CASES PUT UP TO ORDER.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.,
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Correspondents are requested to observe the rule which requires them to forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of their bona fides.

All communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Business correspondence should be sent to the Manager.

Cable Address: Telegraph, Hongkong.

Telephone: No. 1 A.B.C., 5th edition. Western Union
Office address: 11, Ice House St.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1917.

THE ALLIES' ECONOMIC WEAPON.

The very pointed and decidedly pertinent remarks that have of late been addressed particularly to Germany by several of our leading public men regarding Germany's economic dependence upon the British Empire as also upon several of the other Allies, notably the United States, appear to be having the desired effect. The German Government officials, though they have often acted foolishly, are by no means fools, and they know perfectly well that if Britain and the United States withhold from Germany certain raw materials their economic welfare will be seriously hampered and in some cases wholly destroyed. This is a weapon that Germany cannot possibly ignore, for no matter how long she may be able to hold out, her defeat is certain. Her powers of recuperation will unquestionably depend largely on her ability to obtain, with as much ease as in pre-war days, a steady influx into Germany of all sorts of raw materials, so that her manufactures and the whole of her industries, when once again properly organised on normal lines, may move along without a hitch. But the Allies, and particularly Great Britain and the United States, together with the United States, know the powerful weapon they hold in their possession, and, clearly realising its power, the point is being driven home to Germany with very telling emphasis.

The other day Mr. Bonar Law warned our enemies that the longer the war lasts, the less raw material would there be to go round, and, as the Allies would help themselves first, the less there would be for Germany. That is plain and to the point, and even the little lapses into obtuseness characteristic of the Germans can hardly miss its meaning and significance. Even more pointed was the statement of Sir Edward Carson, who indeed is not inclined to mince matters. "During the period of reconstruction after the war," said Sir Edward, "until the needs of ourselves and our Allies are satisfied, Germany will not get an ounce of raw material from the British Empire." As an indication of what that really means to Germany, we have the statement of Mr. Runciman, who speaks with the authority and the knowledge of an ex-President of the Board of Trade. "He says, and says correctly, that the Allies control the principal raw materials of the world. America could shut off cotton, leaving Germany to obtain only a little from Asia Minor. We ourselves could deprive her of three-fourths of the hides required for leather purposes and practically all the rubber which is now an essential part of nearly every manufacture. And it will be part of our policy, as Mr. Runciman states, and as President Wilson also declared, to enforce the maintenance of peace by the control of raw materials. It is unquestionably a very powerful weapon, and it is evident that Germany realises what it will mean to her.

The Germans, in fact, admit their dependence on foreign countries, and particularly on England. In their impotence in this matter all they can do apparently is "to threaten the non-withdrawal of the U-boats," and von Tirpitz, speaking in Berlin, endeavours to console his audience by stating that conditions would be imposed guaranteeing the now lacking raw materials. That is quite another story and will, of course, depend on the issue of hostilities; and as the Germans would be only too glad to throw up the sponge now and call it a draw, it is not likely that in the circumstances they will be able to "impose any such conditions." Equally futile is the consolation offered to his fellow countrymen by General Scheuch when he says that during war-time several raw materials, such as synthetic rubber, nitrate and paper products, and "nitrate from the air" have proved successful. For war emergencies these doubtless suffice, but it will be quite a different matter when normal economic conditions prevail in other countries. Time is on our side. We still retain numerical superiority on the Western Front and with the entrance of America into actual hostilities the prospects will be

The Quality of Mercy.

We have occasion at times to bemoan magisterial leniency towards offenders whose guilt is established, but that does not prevent us from penning a few words of commendation at the treatment yesterday given to a poor old hawker who was brought before Mr. Wood for possessing no licence. The old man, it appears, was formerly a junkmaster but had lost his vessel in a typhoon and, with it, presumably, all his earthly possessions; hence his hawking. In view of this circumstance and the obvious truthfulness of the defendant, who appeared in Court despite the fact that he was let out without bail being required of him, his Worship discharged him and intimated that a free licence would be granted through the Poor Box funds. It is a small incident, no doubt, but it is certainly one that reflects the broad scope of British justice, which does not cling slavishly to the letter of the law but always has an ear open to other and deeper considerations when humanitarian ideas demand it. A little incident of this kind serves to illustrate the great and noble principles on which the success of British colonisation is based. The secret lies in sympathetic administration and the tempering of justice with mercy—in short, in treating subjects as human beings and not, as is the German war, in regarding them as so much scum who have no rights of their own. Big oaks from little acorns grow, and it is by the steady accumulation of little acts of common decency like this that British rule is appreciated wherever it is exercised.

When Hooligan Visionaries Rule.

That the Maximalists dominate the situation in Russia is daily becoming more evident, and that this will be disadvantageous to Russia as a whole, time will prove. The Maximalists, Bolsheviks, or whatever they please to call themselves, are avowed Socialists in their ideas pertaining to government; and Socialists, though they frequently prate much about equality, are notoriously partisans of the wage-earning masses—the Proletariat, the "bottom-deck" class. Those who have inherited or acquired property or wealth are openly held in detestation. Socialists never seem to be able to recognise that equality among men is impossible, and will always be impossible so long as human nature remains as it is and has always been. Economic conditions in all countries could doubtless be so improved as to bring about a more equitable distribution of wealth and with it the opportunity of betterment for many. That, however, will not change human nature, and until all are similar in mind and temperament it is preposterous to expect the levelling up process aimed at by the Socialists, who, without knowing it, are destructive and not constructive in their aims. M. Trotsky, M. Lenin and their fellow Socialists are daily proving the tyrannous nature of the Socialistic doctrines which they hold. They have entered into a dishonourable armistice with an Autocracy, and, worse even than that, they are now threatening the best elements of the Russian people, who are in terms "class enemies." This is the doctrine of the hooligan M. Trotsky, dominant for the time being, says: "You are perturbed at the mild terror we are applying to our class enemies. A month hence this will equal the terror of the great French revolutionaries. Not a fortress but a guillotine awaits our enemies." The so-called "enemies" are unquestionably the best elements of the Russian people—those who have tried vainly to stop the mad, headlong plunge which Russia has been compelled to make—and the doctrine which the tyrannous body of Socialists at present in power are now threatening is nothing more nor less than class hatred and murder.

Opium Possession.

A Chinese was charged before Mr. J. B. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, with being in possession of a quantity of opium. His Worship imposed a fine of \$500, or, in default, three

DAY BY DAY.

BEFORE LOVING OUR ENEMIES THIS TIME WE ARE GOING TO MAKE THEM WORTH LOVING.
—Chicago Daily News.

To-morrow's Anniversary.
To-morrow is the Name Day of the ex-Tsar of Russia.

The Dollar.
The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 2s. 11.7/8d. The closing rate will be found on Page 1.

Lottery Tickets.
Two Chinese charged before Mr. J. B. Wood at the Police Court this morning with printing lottery tickets were fined \$50 each.

Alice Memorial Hospital.
The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospital—Rhenish Mission Church, \$13.65.

The Colony's Health.
During last week there were nine cases of enteric fever notified (one British, two French, two Indian and the rest Chinese), of which three ended fatally. There were also two fatal occurrences of diphtheria (both Chinese).

A Weak Defence.

A grimy coal coolie appeared before Mr. J. B. Wood, at the Police Court this morning, on a charge of having in his possession a quantity of coal for which he could not account. Defendant said he bought the coal from some coolies whom he could not find. A fine of \$10 was imposed.

An Appeal to the Public.

Owing to the exceedingly dry weather and the very inflammable nature of vegetation on the hill-sides at the present time, the kind co-operation of the public is asked for in the prevention of grass fires. Matches, cigar and cigarette ends, etc., should not be thrown away in the vicinity of vegetation unless they have been previously extinguished. Members of picnic parties should see that all fires, kindled to boil water, &c., are afterwards properly extinguished before leaving them. The neglect of any of these precautions is sufficient to destroy the work of years.

THE DRUG HABIT.

Alarming Increase in America.

Mr. Arthur Woods, Police Commissioner at New York, has sent letters to Senator William M. Calder and the Attorney-General asking their co-operation in securing Federal legislation restricting the sale, exportation, importation and distribution of all habit-forming drugs. He says the use of heroin and cocaine during the last ten years has become prevalent to an alarming degree, and that these drugs are easily obtained in New York. This, the Commissioner points out, is partly due to loose methods in enforcing laws in other States. While there is the Harrison law, a Federal statute, and the Boylan law, a State statute, neither of these two laws goes far enough, according to the Commissioner. He would have sale of drugs directly in the hands of the Federal Government.

The Commissioner says that 2,000 arrests of drug-users are made yearly, but no progress is made in stamping out the drug habit. The profit to the trade in the illicit sale of habit-forming drugs is enormous, averaging from 300 to 400 per cent.

Both Senator Calder and the Attorney-General have promised the Commissioner that a bill in line with his ideas will be drawn and introduced in Congress at its next session.

TRAMWAY RETURNS.

The following is the approximate statement of the Hongkong Tramway Company's traffic receipts for the week ending December 15th, 1917:

	Receipts for week.	Aggregate for 50 weeks.
This Year:—	\$11,762	\$671,423
Last Year:—	12,277	710,941
Decrease:—	515	39,518

PORTUGUESE RED CROSS.

Splendid Entertainment at Club Lusitano.

There was a large and appreciative assembly at the Club Lusitano last evening, when a variety entertainment was given in aid of the Portuguese Red Cross Fund, and those who were fortunate enough to attend were treated to one of the brightest and most talented programmes ever seen in Hongkong for a long time past. From start to finish the evening went with an enjoyable swing. The concert was under the patronage of Mr. E. V. M. R. de Sousa, Consul for Portugal, and among those present were many well-known members of the Portuguese community. Judging by the crowded hall, the fund should benefit to an appreciable extent.

The programme opened with an overture by the orchestra and was followed by a well-balanced chorus rendering "It was a Knight" and "Angela" from the well-known opera "Maritana." The rendition of these two excerpts was really creditable, especially the latter, which was given with sympathy and expression. In the former, Miss Bertha Xavier was the soloist. The chorus was composed as follows:—Misses Bertha Xavier, Beatrice Castro, Elfrida Osmond, Gertrude Pina, Maria de Sousa, Anisia Lopes, Phyllis D'Almada e Castro, Annie Silva, Messrs. George A. Vas, Fernando A. M. Rosario, Arthur F. Baptista, Rodolpho D. Baptista, Dick D'Almada e Castro, Luis E. Remedios, Manuel H. Baptista, Eneas G. D'Alquino, Alberto M. O. Remedios, Vasco M. Barradas, Jose M. J. Lopes, Cesar H. Osmond, George V. Osmond, Arthur F. Osmond, Servolo V. Monteiro and Fernando Ramalho. Miss Esther Xavier was at the piano.

The first half of the programme was concluded by the one-act farce, "Packing Up," in which Mr. Jack Braga and Miss Annie Silva impersonated Mr. and Mrs. Chungwater respectively and Mr. J. J. V. Remedios the luggage-man. The farce reverses general experience and shows an irritable man all behind with his packing and in a generally hopeless condition without his wife's aid. Of course, there is a climax, this being the discovery that the journey cannot be made owing to the packing and sending off in advance of the last pair of trousers. What made the farce all the more humorous was the struggle that Mr. Braga had with his large false moustache, this bit of "make-up" positively refusing to stay on. But this apart, the characters were well played and all immensely enjoyed the item. Mr. E. G. d'Alquino gave a good rendering of "Thora" between the two principal items in this half of the entertainment.

"The Stunts" and their Jester, a group of performers who had been trained by Mr. P. A. Rosario, provided the second portion of the programme and it is not over-stating fact when it is said that they not only did their work with credit but are one of the best combinations of their kind recruited from local talent. "The Stunts" are composed of the Misses Elfrida Osmond, Maria de Sousa, Annie Silva, Phyllis D'Almada e Castro, Anisia Lopes, Gertrude Pina, and Messrs. George Vas, Rodolpho Baptista, J. J. V. Remedios, E. G. d'Alquino, F. Remedios and Dick D'Almada e Castro, with Mr. Jack Braga as the Jester. They were attired in striking costumes, for which Mrs. Remedios and Mrs. Osmond were responsible, and imparted into their work a sparkle that guaranteed success. It would be almost invidious to single out for special mention any of the group, but it was the general opinion that Miss Elfrida Osmond, who is well-known as a talented pianist, made the hit of the evening with her item "Marching with the Band." She is a very vivacious little actress. All were really good, and, and in the choruses the work was especially praiseworthy. Mr. Jack Braga introduced a deal of humour into his part, a tableau depicting a Red Cross nurse attending a wounded soldier, in which Miss Eos Remedios, Miss Elfrida Osmond and Mr. F. A. M. Rosario took part, made a fitting finale.

The entertainment is to be repeated to-morrow evening, when it is hoped that there will again be a large audience.

The Sub-Committee responsible for the arrangements was composed of Messrs. P. A. Rosario, F. A. V. Ribeiro, L. A. Xavier and A. M. O. Remedios. The entertainment is to be repeated to-morrow evening, when it is hoped that there will again be a large audience.

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CHIEF OFFICER'S THEFTS.

Stuff Which He Thought was Useless.

Before Mr. A. Dyer Ball, at the Police Court this morning, I. O. Frandsen, chief officer of the s.s. Chinhuu, was charged stealing a steel rope, iron stanchions, piping, Manila rope, old canvas and other articles.

In reply to the charge, defendant said he was under the impression that the stuff was not required, and that it was an obnoxious.

His Worship said that he had inspected the stuff and he failed to agree with defendant that it was not useful.

Captain E. V. Jones said that the stanchions were used to hold the stage in position when loading light cargo. They were absolutely necessary when loading this class of cargo. They were quite serviceable. The steel hawser was quite good and serviceable. There were three coils, though not full ones. The piping was serviceable. The defendant had no right at all to sell the stuff. If the stuff was to be sold it would be sent to the Company's godown. The chief officer should communicate with the Company if it was not wanted.

His Worship said it seemed to him a very serious thing for a chief officer to take upon himself. The Captain said defendant had a very good character while he had been with him. He had nothing against him. He had been with the Company about three years. He could not conceive that defendant could be of opinion that the stuff was useless.

Defendant said the stages had been left in Taikoo Dock and the stanchions would not be required again. Some of the money he got from the sale he used on himself and some he had still got. They had a carpenter on board whom he paid and about which the Company knew nothing. He paid three wages out of his own pocket. Coming out of Taikoo Dock there were many sweepings between decks, and the man who bought the stuff cleaned it up. He was not allowed to throw it over board. The chief officer did away with stuff like that if it was not useful.

POLICE RESERVE ORDERS.

Orders issued to-day by Mr. F. O. Jenkin, D.S.P. (R.), state:—Nos. 3 and 4 Platoons (No. 2 Company)

These Platoons will parade at Central Station at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19. Inspector O.M.S. Alves will take the parade.

Leave Regulations (Parades and Drills).

Departmental Order No. 87 is suspended until further orders, and the following will take its place:—

"87. No member below the rank of Inspector shall absent himself from any parade, drill, lecture, practice, etc., without the permission of either the D.S.P. or Adjutant. No application will be entertained unless made in writing and submitted through the proper channels. Inspectors and senior ranks will apply direct for such permission."

singing of "A Portuguese" and the National Anthem brought what had been a most enjoyable evening to a close.

TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

With a view to preventing future warfare, the opening of the winter term in French lycées has been marked by a campaign to abolish lessons dealing with any wars past or present. Such a movement would mean bowdlerising historical text-books to an even greater extent than was the case under the First Empire, when Napoleon insisted that French schoolboys should be kept in complete ignorance of facts relating to the exiled Royal Family. The Chevalier de Cressy, who was born in 1795, relates that he never knew of the existence of the Bourbons until 1814, when General Janssen, whom he then served as aide-de-camp, told him that the Duc d'Angoulême had arrived at Bordeaux and that the Bourbons would probably come into their own again. "The General proceeded," says De Cressy in his "Souvenirs," "to tell me about the other Bourbons then living abroad. Up to then I knew nothing about this august and unhappy family. At the lycées they taught French history in such a way that the Bourbons played no part in it. We read of the glorious reign of Henri IV., Louis XIII., and Louis XIV., but we were not allowed to know that they were Bourbons. The only time I overheard their name pronounced was in a sermon, when the chaplain referred to the fall of the Bourbons having been brought about by the Almighty in His infinite wisdom so that France might be ruled by Napoleon the Great. These words conveyed absolutely nothing to me."

Writing with reference to recent paragraphs concerning the effect of the war on the nation's versatility, a correspondent to a Home paper says:—"I would go further than Professor Cannon and say, not only that our versatility will be greater after the war, but that it has increased already. The fact is illustrated in any of the new Government departments, where men of all callings are working, and where university dons, lawyers, authors, journalists, not to mention others, are showing themselves fully the equals of professional civil servants and business men at tasks which recently would have been considered the special province of these two classes. As a matter of fact, the war, despite a popular belief to the contrary, has revealed very plainly the limitations of the specialist or expert, or, as he is called in Germany—his favourite haunt—the Fachmann, the man cooped up in his own little box or pigeon-hole. In all the countries that have been fighting for any length of time the "professional," whether soldier, sailor, or diplomatist, have blundered amazingly.

Mistakes were of course inevitable, continues the correspondent, but many of their mistakes are hard to excuse—for instance, the resolve of the Germans to invade Belgium, and the prolonged failure of our naval authorities to appreciate the capabilities of the submarine. On the other hand, General Smuts, a lawyer by training, is kept in the country to advise the War Cabinet on strategy; Mr. Lloyd George gets up the mountains which, according to our military chiefs, could never be ready in time to effect the war; while Mr. Churchill, as I am sure that future generations will recognise, has shown a "strategical insight" that would have given us victory long ago if it had been allowed free play. Turning to the navy, and Sir Eric Geddes, who made his name in railway management called to the rescue at the moment when our maritime supremacy is most seriously in danger. In diplomacy, President Wilson—a mere novice compared with many a vice consul—is coming to be recognised by the Germans themselves as their most dangerous opponent. The war, in fact, has simply confirmed the opinion that the clever man cannot learn anything, at least no amount of "practical experience" will enable the professional to hold his own against the gifted amateur. A lesson which I hope will be taken to heart by the military.

JERUSALEM.

Sermon by the Rev. J. K. Macdonald.

Notes of a sermon by the Rev. J. K. Macdonald at Union Church on Sunday morning:—
"The word that Isaiah the son of Amos saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem."—Isaiah 2/1.

The oracle which follows begins with the classic passage foretelling a time when men shall beat their swords into ploughshares and study war no more. The seer beholds Zion as the centre of this happy world condition, "many peoples" saying one to another, "Come ye and let us go unto the mountain of the Lord; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths." Not political domination, but moral influence is in the mind of the prophet, influence exercised for ends with which, indeed, political domination is incompatible, a universal justice in which alone contentment and peace can ever permanently flourish. Distracted though our world may be at this hour, it is doubtful whether these lofty ideals ever held a closer place in the reasoned hopes of men.

In Western Europe, and now also in America, the war is being maintained in the avowed hope of freeing the future from the menace of strife which has always overhung its past. The dreams, as they have been commonly called, of the prophets are becoming the sober aspiration of practical statesmen, and though their absolute fulfillment may yet be delayed, we have at least a right to believe it has been brought appreciably nearer. If I mistake not, these deep-rooted hopes lie behind the eager interest which has surrounded the occupation of the holy city of Palestine by British troops a week ago. Other considerations, of course, enter in, for the fall of Jerusalem marks the military success of a campaign of great importance to the British Empire. That success will resound through Arabia, Africa and the whole East, as well as in Europe, especially perhaps in Russia, where veneration for the holy places of Christendom is probably more fervent than anywhere else in the world. The German Emperor had a true eye for effect when some years ago he made himself conspicuous in Damascus and Jerusalem, theatrical and overdone as usual though his posing was. But he will preach no more sermons in Palestine, for the central highways of the Middle East will for the future be under better control than that of either the impossible Turk or the unspeakable Hun. The Palestine campaign was truly spoken of in Parliament as vital to our defence of Egypt. The German ambition to "cut the neck of the British Empire" by crippling it in that central spot has long been frustrated, but the geographical position of Syria has always given it an importance out of proportion to its mere area, and our work in Egypt must be safe from menace on that side.

It is not possible to say at what precise date authentic history of Jerusalem begins. It may not be the Salem of which Melchisedek was King in the time of Abraham, but in that of David we get on surer ground, for he captured the chief city of the Jebusites and made it his capital. That is the first of the numerous sieges which are on record, and it is remarkable for the contempt with which the inhabitants, thinking their city impregnable, greeted the Israelite host. Their gibe that the blind and the lame could hold it against David passed into a common proverb, somewhat as that of the Kaiser about a certain "contemptible little army" bids fair to do. Solomon, by erecting the temple, and later Kings, by improving the fortifications and water supply, added greatly to the strength of the fortress as well as its magnificence. The pride of the Jews in their mountain stronghold comes out freely in their poetry, notably in the 48th Psalm—"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King," and so forward. But even stronger

feelings than patriotic pride in making towers and bulwarks is found in the ineffaceable attachment which sprang up later in hearts of the exile Israelites towards the distant home, broken and wasted though it was, by the cruel conquest of Nebuchadnezzar. By the rivers of Babylon Judah's banished ones sat, and wept when they remembered Zion. All history contains nothing quite comparable with the passionate devotion which from then even until to-day has lain in the soul of that extraordinary people for the city of their fathers and their faith:—"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, may my right hand forget her cunning. . . . if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chiefest joy." The restoration under Nehemiah and Ezra affords a pathetic picture for this reason, and the most glowing passages of prophecy are those which promise a renewal of God's covenant favour to His chosen people, and their settlement in the ancient seat, a centre of light and blessing to a redeemed humanity dwelling in brotherhood and joyfully walking in the law of the Lord.

Under the Herods in Roman suzerainty the city attains a grandeur and importance unequalled since the days of Solomon. Its people, however, remained haughty and turbulent, impatient of the foreign yoke, and eager for the restoration promised by the prophets but interpreted in a political and not a spiritual sense. Not knowing the day of her visitation, Jerusalem made herself the scene of the cardinal error and crime of history. Her leaders crucified the Lord of Glory, and before that generation had wholly passed away not one stone of its temple was left upon another, and the Jews became what they have since remained, a people without a country. As the scene of our Saviour's sufferings, Jerusalem, though shorn of its material glories, became in time a sacred city in the affection and imagination of the Christian as well as the Jew. In spite of the protests of Augustine and others against the mingling of sentiment with superstition, it became more and more a place of pilgrimage and relic-hunting, interrupted only by the Moslem conquest which made Jerusalem second only to Mecca in sanctity to followers of the prophet as the place whence the latter took his flight to heaven. Thus arose the protracted struggle of the Crusades which absorbed so much of the energy of the early middle ages, and as to whose general results historians hesitate whether to strike the balance on the side of good or ill. The rule of the Turk came to an end, finally as we believe, a week ago. Bells have been rung in Christian Churches and Te Deums sung to celebrate the event.

It does indeed mark a turning point in history, and we have a right to rejoice, but not as for success in a racial or religious quarrel, the triumph of the last of the Crusades. We have learnt in Christ that neither in Jerusalem nor elsewhere as a question of locality do men worship the Father, and we see in the capture of the ancient city no mere triumph of Christian over Moslem, but the victory of justice over misgovernment and the displacement of oppression by rightful freedom. The sentiments not alone of Christians but of Moslems and Jew have been scrupulously respected, and from this time forward, whatever be the political future of the city, let us trust it will be a standing memorial of mutual respect and charity, and not, as in the past, of bigotry and superstitious zeal. Should the expected occupation by the Jews under international guarantee be carried out, it will be to the general satisfaction.

Amongst other outworn errors which this war has already put an end to is surely that of the political persecution of the Hebrew race, and if a local centre can be found for them satisfactory to themselves one public shame and sorrow will be gone from God's world, and we may look for new and larger fulfillments of the promise that in Abraham and his seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Many will see in these events an inevitable fulfilment of Biblical prophecy foreseen in detail. The field is one on which

HONGKONG DEFENCE CORPS.

Order for Infantry Battalion issued by Major H. A. Morgan state:—

Camp.

Reference Infantry Battalion Order dated 19.11.17, the special train on Saturday, 22nd December, will leave Kowloon for Low at 3.45 p.m. instead of 2.15 p.m. Reference Corps Order No. 1 dated 17.12.17, the 8.05 a.m. (mail) train will not stop at Shatin, but a special train will leave Kowloon at 8.25 a.m. for Shatin.

Parades.

Reference Corps Order No. 2 dated 17.12.17, No. 8 Platoon (Kowloon Dock Sections Nos. 13, 14 and 15 and men of No. 16 Section who have not attended Camp) will parade at Kowloon Station at 8.15 a.m. on December 23, instead of at Hung Hom Station at 7.50 a.m.

Machine Gun Company (Kowloon Dock N.C.O.s and men) will parade at the same time and place and under the same conditions as No. 8 Platoon.

I feel little qualified to enter, and when the discussion proceeds to anticipations of some spectacular winding up of the present dispensation I cannot help thinking it is wisest to wait and see, and go on with one's work. Jerusalem holds a venerated place in our affections and imagination, but it is difficult to believe that the great purposes of God can be in any way dependent upon what happens to that or any other particular spot in this wide world, which indeed contains no spot whither the soul can flee from His presence, or in which He is more near than in another to a prepared and seeking heart. We are taught in Christ to look for the Holy City, New Jerusalem, let down from out of heaven, a new and better order in human society, founded upon principles which are no longer those of the dust, but inspired from the upper world where love rules and God is all in all.

We read the other day that broad-minded proclamation of General Allenby in Arabic, English and several European languages, I thought, quite reverently, of the inscription in the great languages of the ancient world placed over the thorn-crowned head of the Lord who, though crucified, still retained His royalty of nature, and in coming more and more to His rightful sovereignty of place. The "word of the Lord concerning Judah and Jerusalem" will only be fulfilled in Him. Only in Him will swords verily become ploughshares, will middle walls of partition be broken down, and men learn to live in the good will and peace in their mutual relations.

The Crusader thought to further Christ's Kingdom by the sword, and one result is a bitterness of memory and tradition which forms the main barrier between Christian and Moslem to this day. The Jew has for ages suffered persecution, and if he has been driven into stubborn opposition to the gospel which, after all, his race, speaking humanly, gave to the world, can we wonder?

Christendom—the nominally Christian world—has long been saying "Lord, Lord," and rejecting every effort to obey His word in international affairs as visionary and impracticable. The result is that Christian civilisation is discredited in the eyes of men, and, having tried to get on without God, is now in its consequent disaster asking whether there is a God at all. May we not hope, when once the dear-bought lessons of this time have been laid to heart, that the nations of this world will really set themselves to the building up of that New Jerusalem in which Christ shall truly reign, recognising that His law of love, so far from being an impracticability, is indeed and quite literally the only possibility under which they can continue to live together at all in this world which God has made and has given them to possess, but which they have only been thinking to exploit?

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

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CANTON NEWS.

Our Canton correspondent writes under date of December 17 as follows:—

Mok Wing-son, Li Yu-ho, Ching Pik kwong, Li Lit-oh and Chan King-ming have jointly sent a warning telegram to Lung Chai-kwong, protesting against his acceptance of the appointment of Inspecting Commissioner of the Two Kwangs as it is made by the Tuan's Government. Therefore any armed force that comes within the territory of the two Provinces on the pretext of inspecting will be treated as outlaws and be attacked. An official notification has been sent to Luk Wing-ting and all high officials in the Two Kwangs by Lung Chai-kwong stating that for the sake of the peace of the Provinces he is assuming the post of Inspecting Commissioner and he hopes they will assist him to carry out the object. He says the local garrisons should be previously notified so as to prevent any conflict with the inspecting Army.

It is reported that Lung Chai-kwong's Army has captured Loi Chow city by surprise. A secret meeting was held in the Tachun's yamen among all high officials on this matter, and it was decided to despatch a punitive army. Another report from Hoihow states that about 100 junks are ready to convey Lung's troops across the channel.

All the high officials in Canton, on hearing that Luk Wing-ting intends to retire, have jointly requested him to remain. On receiving a report that a big gang of robbers has collected in a place near Sam Ohan (near the New Territory of Hongkong) for the purpose of looting, the Superintendent of Police has been ordered to send a strong body of police to arrest them.

TO-DAY'S
ADVERTISEMENT.

G. R. NOTICE.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that in accordance with Regulations published under Government Notification No. 514 of 23rd November, 1917, commencing from 1st January next all private rickshaws have to be licensed at an annual licence fee of \$10 payable in advance. Ricksha-drivers have to be licensed at a fee of 50 cents half-yearly.

C. MC L. MESSER,
Captain Superintendent of Police,
Hongkong, 18th December, 1917.

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1 " Port, Superb Tawny	"
2 " Claret, St. Julien	Quarts
1 " Sherry, Old Brown,	"
1 " Gin, Old Tom or Dry "D.C.L."	"
1 " Burgundy, Burgoyne's	Quart
1 phial Pomeranzen Bitters	"

\$ 31.00

No. 2 HAMPER.

1 bottle Champagne, "Victor Clicquot," Quart	
1 " D.O.M.	Pint
1 " Burgundy, Burgoyne's	"
1 " Brandy, Martell's XXX	"
2 " Whisky, King George IV or Perfection	"
2 " Port, Tawny Dry	"
2 " Claret, St. Julien	Quart
1 " Gin Old Tom or Dry "D.C.L."	"
1 " Sherry "Vino de Pasto"	"
1 phial Pomeranzen Bitters	"

\$ 27.00

No. 3 HAMPER.

1 bottle Burgundy, Burgoyne's	Quart
1 " Peppermint, Get Freres	Pint
1 " D.O.M.	"
2 " Rich Old Port	"
2 " Whisky, King George IV or Perfection	"
1 " Brandy 20 year Old	"
1 " Sherry, Amontillado W.S.	"
2 " Claret, Medoc	"
1 " Gin Old Tom or Dry	"
1 phial Pomeranzen Bitters	"

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TUESDAY, 18th DECEMBER, 1917.

10.00 p.m. Kinshan. | 4.30 p.m. Honam.

WEDNESDAY, 19th DECEMBER, 1917.

8.00 a.m. Honam. | 8.00 a.m. Faishan.
10.00 p.m. Faishan. | 4.30 p.m. Kinshan.

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SUNDAY, 23rd DECEMBER, 1917.

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N.B.—The Company will also run a steamer from Macao on Sunday at 7.30 a.m. and from Hongkong at 1 p.m. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

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Bangkok	Hupei	B. & S.	19, Dec.
Shanghai	Shikiang	B. & S.	20, Dec.
Haiphong	Kaifong	B. & S.	20, Dec.
Shanghai	Taksang	J. M. Co.	20, Dec.
Sandakan	Wingsang	J. M. Co.	21, Dec.
Manila	Mausang	J. M. Co.	21, Dec.
Swatow, Amoy and Foochow	Yuen-sang	J. M. Co.	21, Dec.
Amoy and Shanghai	Haitan	D. L. Co.	21, Dec.
Weihaiwei & Chefoo	Himansok	J.C.J.L.	27, Dec.
Manila	Huichow	B. & S.	27, Dec.
Shanghai, Kobe and Yokohama	Loongsang	J. M. Co.	28, Dec.
	Atsuta M.	Y. K.	18, Jan.

NOTICE.



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CONSIGNEES

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"NEDERLAND" AND
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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship

"KONINGINDER

NEDERLANDEN"

having arrived from SAN
FRANCISCO, consignees of cargo
are hereby notified that all
goods are being landed at their
risk into the hazardous and/or
extra-hazardous Godowns of the
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf &
Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or
from the wharves delivery may
be obtained.

No claim will be admitted after
the goods have left the Go-
downs, and all Goods remaining
undelivered after noon the 21st
December, will be subject to rent.
All claims against the steamer
must be presented to the under-
signed on or before the 25th
December, or they will not be
recognized.

All broken, chafed and damag-
ed Goods are to be left in the
Godowns, where they will be
examined on the 20th December,
at 10 a.m. by the Company's
Surveyors, Messrs. Goddard &
Douglas.

No Insurance whatsoever has
been effected.
Bills of Lading will be counter-
signed by
JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN,
Agents,
Hongkong, 15th December, 1917.

CONSIGNEES

THE WATERHOUSE STEAM-
SHIP LINES.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

From VANCOUVER & JAPAN.
THE Steamship

"MAYACHI MARU"

having arrived from the above
ports, Consignees of cargo by
her are hereby informed that
all Goods are being landed at
their risk into the hazardous
and/or extra-hazardous Godowns
of the Hongkong and Kowloon
Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.,
whence and/or from the Wharves
delivery may be obtained.
Goods not cleared by 5 P.M.
27th December, 1917, will be
subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged
packages are to be left in the
Godowns where they will be
examined by Messrs. Goddard
and Douglas on 22nd December,
1917, at 10.00 a.m.

Claims against the steamer
must be presented within 10
days of arrival, otherwise they
will not be recognized.
No Fire Insurance will be
effected by us in any case what-
ever.

Bills of Lading will be counter-

signed by

JARDINE, MATHESON
& CO., LTD.
Agents.

Hongkong, 16th December, 1917.

NOTICE.

NOTICE

During the absence of the staff
compiling a Dollar Directory in Singa-
pore, the affairs of the

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Downing Mr & Pederson Miss
Mrs H B L Roberts Mr & Mrs
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Craig Mr & Mrs D Rowlands Mrs Bowen
Gallies S Stephens Mr & Mrs
Fletcher F R H
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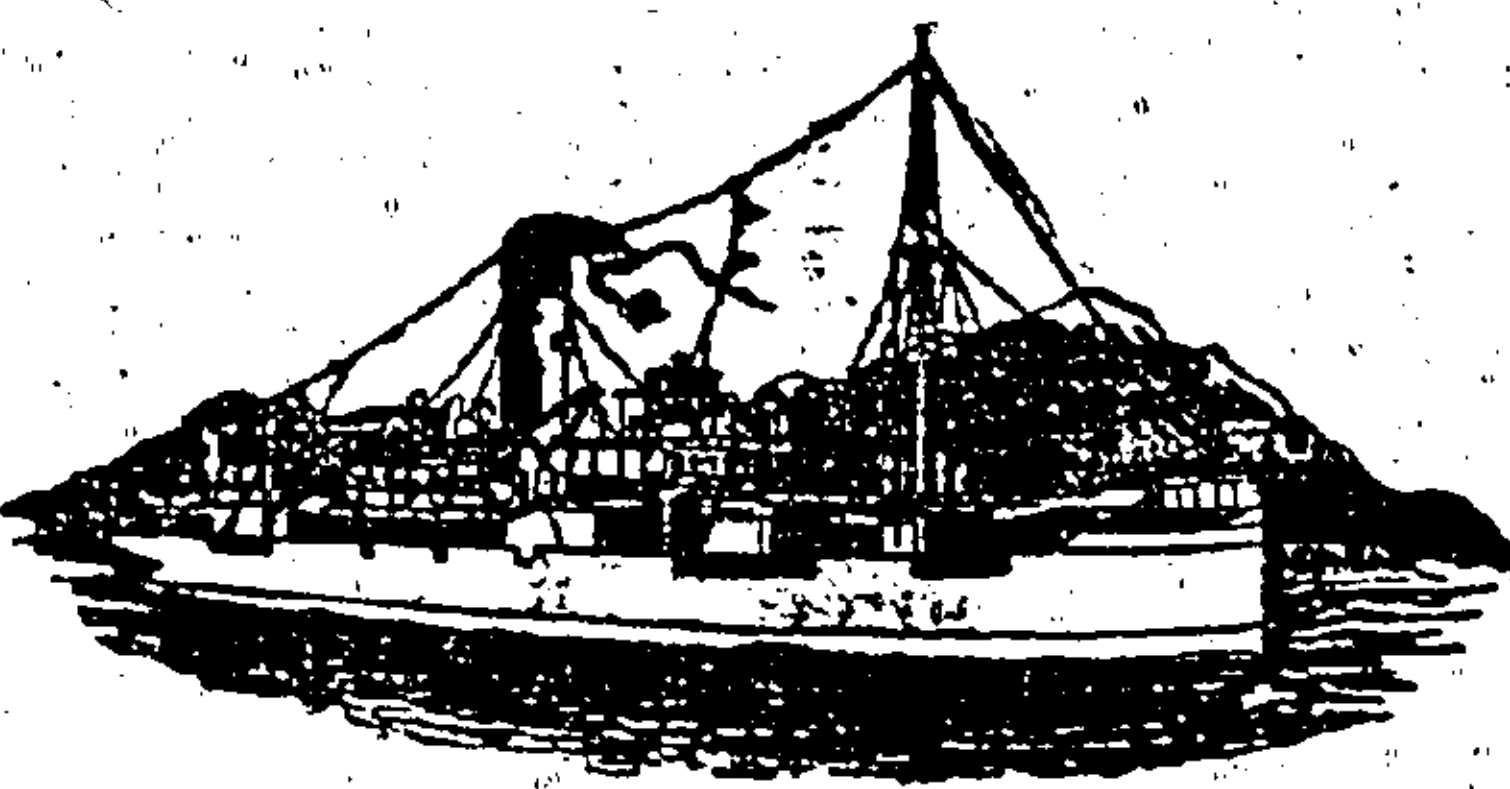
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Fuller Denman Smith Findlay Mr
Hale Mr & Mrs B A & Mrs A

Harling Mr & Mrs Smith S R
H R Skinner Miss
Johnson F B Smith Findlay Mr
John Mrs T J R & Mrs V
Jockheer Mr & Towney H
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Kring Mr & Mrs T Vaillant Madam Le
Lembolet Mr & Mrs Ventris Major Gen
Lembolet Mr & Mrs Ventris Major Gen
Mattingley R F Ward Lt Col John
Morton E H Ward Lt Col John
Muir R Wilson J
Mathes Mrs Viera Wetton Mr & Mrs
de SE
Young Col R E

CONSIGNEES

TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

s.s. "KOREA MARU."

From SAN FRANCISCO, via
HONOLULU, JAPAN PORTS,
& MANILA.

The above named steamer
having arrived, consignees of
cargo are hereby notified to
send in their Bills of Lading for
counter-signature, and to take
immediate delivery of cargo from
at night.

Cargo remaining undelivered
on 15th December, at 5 P.M., will
be landed at consignees' risk and
expense, and delivery must then
be taken from the Company's
Godown.

Storage charge will be assess-
ed on all cargo remaining un-
delivered on 17th December, at
5 P.M.

No Fire Insurance whatever

will be effected.

No Claim will be recognised

after the goods have left the

Steamer or Godown.

All chafed and damaged cargo

will be landed into the Company's

Godown, where they will be

examined on the 29th December,

at 10 A.M.

No Claim will be recognised if

filed after the 27th December,

1917.

T. DAIGO,

Agent

Hongkong, 15th December, 1917.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

From KOBE, and MOJI.

THE Steamship

"BANCA"

having arrived consignees of
cargo are hereby informed that
their Goods will be delivered
from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge
will be landed at consignees' risk
and expense into the hazardous
and/or extra-hazardous Godowns
of the Hongkong and Kowloon
Wharf and Godown Company,
Limited.

No Fire Insurance has been
effected.
Bills of Lading will be counter-
signed by

DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.
Agents,
Hongkong, 14th December, 1917.

W. C. HUMPHREYS
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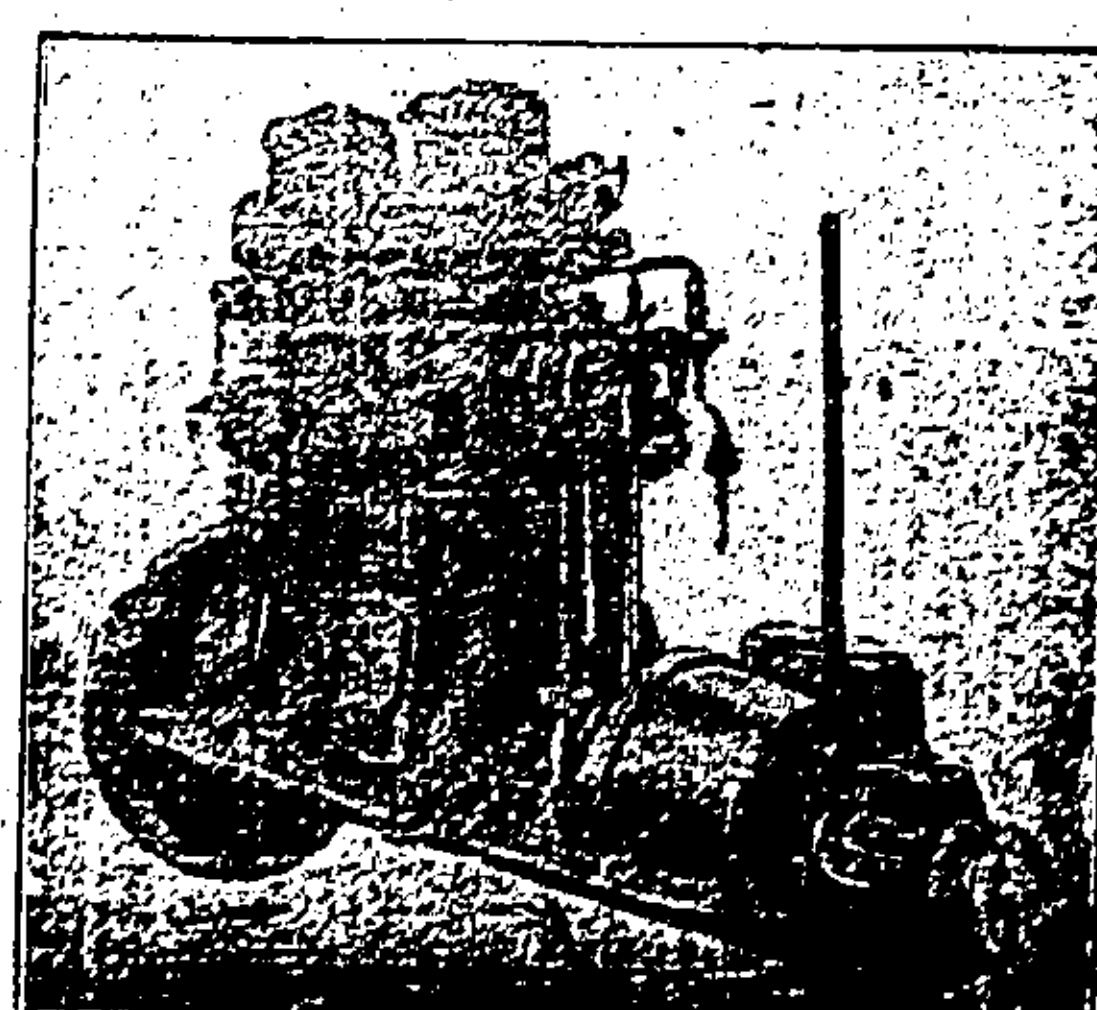
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reliability with in-

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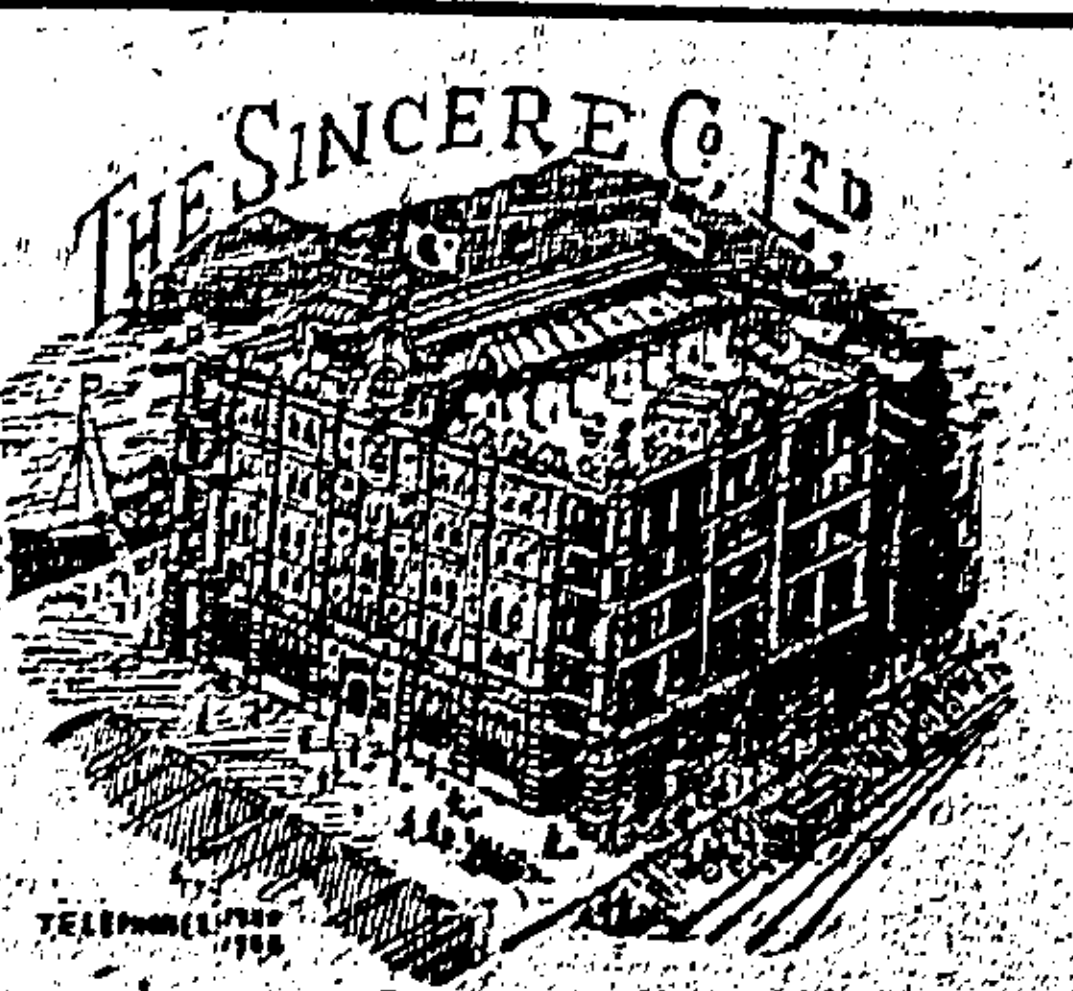
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PRICES MODERATE.

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STOP PRESS TELEGRAMS.

ANOTHER CONVOY DISASTER.

Six Steamers, a Destroyer and Four Armed Trawlers Sunk.
London, December 17.
In the House of Commons, Sir Eric Geddes announced that as the result of an enemy attack on a Scandinavian convoy, one British and five neutral ships, totalling 8,608 tons, were sunk; also a British destroyer and four armed trawlers.

THE PALESTINE PRISONERS.

London, December 17.
Reuter's correspondent at Cairo states that so far 563 Turkish officers and 11,474 men have been taken prisoner in Palestine.

CHAOS SPREADING IN RUSSIA.

London, December 17.
Telegrams from Petrograd continue to reflect the growing chaos throughout the country. The Bolsheviks, in pursuance of their policy of semi-terrorism towards the non-Bolshevik elements, continue to make wholesale arrests, the latest victims being a batch of ex-Treasury officials and also the Director of the Persian Discount Bank, who were holding a meeting to assist the Bank officials at present striking. All Banks in the capital are closed. News from the provinces is still scrappy and is mostly from Bolshevik sources. There is no confirmation of the arrest of General Kaledin.

1789 AND 1917.

A Historical Parallel.

It may be true that history does not repeat itself; but it is at least certain that the same political causes infallibly produce the same results, writes Lord Sydenham, in the *Sunday Times*. Of this there can be no more striking proof than the similarity between the French and the Russian Revolution.

In 1789, as in 1917, there were conditions which demanded drastic changes. In France, as in Russia, there was no insuperable difficulty in securing the essential reforms by constitutional methods, and there was some hope—in 1789 especially—that a peaceful revolution could be accomplished. We know what actually happened: In France, as in Russia, small minority groups, led by irreconcilables with theories to test or axes to grind, idealists at one end of the scale and anarchists at the other, agreeing only in an ardent desire to destroy existing institutions were able to seize upon power and to bring their countries to disaster.

In France as in Russia, every principle of democracy was flagrantly violated, and the French and Russian peoples played no part, except in so far as they were terrorised by violence or bribed by promises of material gains. The danger-point was in both cases the national capital. In France the capture of the municipality of Paris was the first step to the control of the Assembly, and later to the subjection, in the name of liberty, of the whole country to the most cruel tyranny that the civilised world had known.

In Russia the Committee of Workmen and Soldiers—workmen who did not work and soldiers who had no stomach for fighting—representing nothing but the revolutionary groups centred in Petrograd, was able to wreck the great armies which had at length been well equipped, and could have played a determining part in ending the war, to paralyse industry and transport, and to increase the national expenditure to a perilous extent. The methods adopted—embassies, propaganda, sectional committees, and "commissaries"—to cripple the action of the commanders in the field—closely followed the earlier models. In Petrograd a force of 50,000 armed workmen, corresponding to the "armed sections" used to terrorise Paris, has been formed.

In both cases the extremists overpowered the dreamers, and their plan was to utilise the dangerous elements of the population to set up a rival government which could checkmate the forces of order.

The analogy between the French and the Russian Revolution can be carried further; but there is one marked difference. The Revolutionary Commune of Paris was not wholly secure in power till 1791, when Danton became its Procurator-Substitute. Henceforth, its violence increased, and when, in 1792, it had triumphed, the Reign of Terror could be inaugurated. In Russia the pre-organisation of the revolutionary groups must have been more complete, and present means of communication facilities

ed their proceedings. They were, therefore, able to act with tragic rapidity.

Moreover, France in 1789 was not confronted with a military situation demanding the utmost energy and devotion on the part of her armies: while Russia in March last was approaching the crisis of her greatest war. The cataclysm in Russia was thus far more quickly disastrous, and her territories and population being vastly greater and less homogeneous than those of France, peculiar difficulties have arisen.

On the other hand, the tremendous German menace led in less than six months to a demand for the exercise of autocratic power as the only means of saving the nation from utter ruin. M. Kerensky, at the Moscow Conference, expressed his readiness to become a dictator; but the first necessity is the re-establishment of discipline and of the authority of the commanders in the field and of the army. This can be accomplished only by a man of iron will, who will tolerate no rival power, and will frankly accept the advice of the generals, who alone are able to gauge the gravity of the military situation.

With armies which have, in great part, lost all moral, and with an enemy well able to take full advantage of the present débâcle, the task must be supremely difficult. In France years elapsed before Napoleon was able to suppress the revolutionary forces and to assume the reins of government.

Socialism has been accurately described as "the most audacious, incoherent, and dangerous combination of forces and formulas ever brought together in a single movement." Ranging from mild experiments State or municipal management, through class hatred, syndicalism, universal co-operation and atheism, to anarchic communism, the Socialist formulas hold out attractions to minds which are poles apart in moral sense and in intellectual calibre, but especially to all who are, rightly or wrongly, discontented with their lot.

And always, when the attempt to apply them is made, the extremists, who rely on the predatory instinct inherited from uncivilised man, submerge the dreamers and insist on a violent class war, entailing a national catastrophe.

We have lately seen an eager attempt by the leaders of various Socialist groups to impose their will upon trade unions to which they do not even belong, to arrogate to themselves powers to which they have no claim in any democratic sense, and to set up in this country the machinery which has demoralised a gallant army possessing a fine historical record of devotion, led a great and patriotic people into chaos, and inflicted incalculable injury upon the cause of the Allies and of the freedom of the world.

If we fail to read aright the plain writing on the wall, then when the war ends we, like Russia may awake to find plans of reconstruction diverted into the disastrous methods of a Socialist revolution. And owing to the intense political and economic complexity of our Empire, the consequences would be infinitely more ruinous and the possibilities of recuperation far more remote than those which Russian patriots now contemplate.

PHILIPPINES HARVEST.

An Unusually Prosperous Year Anticipated.

Economic conditions in the islands at the close of the month of November were excellent, according to report received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue from its various agents located all over the provinces. The crops harvested during the month were on the whole satisfactory, and growing crops give promise of good harvests. Industrial conditions are very good, business is brisk, and money plentiful in most of the provinces.

Cagayan has a promising rice crop. This is especially true of the northern part of Cagayan. More land in this district is being planted to rice than formerly. The tobacco crop was larger than usual but the leaf was not of the best quality. It is believed that the circulation of a Spanish translation of Farmers' Bulletin No. 16, of the Bureau of Agriculture, treating of the cultivation, harvesting and curing of tobacco, would greatly improve the quality of the tobacco. There is large crop of nipa tube in the Aboitiz district. The immigration of a large number of Ilocanos has relieved the labour situation.

Crop conditions are good in the Ilocos provinces and throughout north central Luzon.

In south central Luzon weather conditions indicate good crops. In Batangas and Mindoro the coconuts, hemp, rice, and sugar crops are in good condition. Big rice and hemp harvests are anticipated in Mindoro. Fishing and lumbering are flourishing, the market for these products being excellent. An exceptionally heavy crop of palsey was harvested in Candelaria and Tiaong. Good palsey crops were reported in Binan and Santa Rosa also. The coconuts are heavy. Competition in hemp and coconuts buying was brisk and business in general showed an improvement over the preceding month.

In Camarines, Albay, and Sorsogon the growing crops were doing well everywhere. A good yield of rice was being harvested and an unusually large acreage of good rice is still to be harvested while rice planting is still going on in some parts of the district. Most of the local industries were in better condition than in past years. The business of moving passengers and freight by auto was active. The output of chewing tobacco factories and distilleries was greater than ever before. Activity in handling native food products and locally made household articles was unusual. Money, except small change, was plentiful.

Business was slow in Pansy and Negros due to a scarcity of money. The lack of shipping kept the price of sugar down, causing this condition of affairs. The milling of sugar at San Carlos began about November 15. It was expected that that would relieve the situation to a certain extent. Rice was being harvested in Cebu and in the northern part of Iloilo. The crop should exceed all previous crops.

Crops are growing well in Samar and Leyte. Hemp and coconuts are in good condition. Fishing is one of the main industries. In Cebu excessive rains have injured the growing corn crop and have prevented the planting of tobacco in most localities. In consequence many farmers have planted large areas to palsey. They are also planting the castor bean and expect to realise well since castor oil is scarce and prices are good. In Bohol good returns were being realised from the sale of coconuts and abaca. The rice crop was estimated to be 25 per cent. above normal. In Misamis province coconuts and abaca were bringing large returns and a good corn crop was expected.

Prosperous conditions prevail in Mindanao and Sulu. In Zamboanga, Atkins Knoll and Co. of San Francisco have opened up offices and intend to run a trading schooner for the purchase of hemp and coconuts. A hemp press is being set up in Zamboanga and hemp will soon be classified there instead of in Manila. Pacific coast capitalists have commenced what promises to be the

NO PASSPORT.

A DUTCHMAN SENT TO GOAL.

Attempt to Reach Canton by Motor Car.

The story of how a Dutchman attempted to evade the authorities and leave the Colony without having a passport was told to Mr. A. Dyer Ball, at the Police Court this morning, when Remi Maurice Robert Heymans van de Donwer was charged that he did unlawfully, and without the permission of the Governor, attempt to leave the Colony of Hongkong without a passport issued by or under the authority of the Captain Superintendent of Police.

The explanation defendant gave was that his name was on the British Black List in Java which he had just left. He saw the British Consul in that place and asked for his assistance in getting it removed, and this was promised. He left Java to go to Amsterdam, where he was going to set up in business for himself and represent a Manchester and Birmingham firm and he also wanted to be with his wife and child. He got to Singapore and had no trouble and he then came on to Hongkong. He immediately went up to see Assistant Colonial Secretary and told him that he wished to proceed father to Holland, but a passport was refused because his name had not yet been removed from the British Black List in Java and he was told that he would have to go back to Java.

The Hon. Mr. McL. Messer, C.S.P., prosecuted and said there were certain reasons which he was not going into why defendant should have gone back to Batavia. Defendant was found in a motor car. He was stopped at Taipei by a look-out. The swing bridge at Taipei had been, especially drawn up over the level crossing and the car could not go on. This took place at 8.15 at night. Defendant was trying to go to Canton. Defendant had a lot of baggage in the car with him.

His Worship, addressing defendant, said:—"You were refused permission but you tried to get through. It was deliberate disobedience of the laws of the Government and you knew it. It was a deliberate attempt to get away at night in a vehicle that was not likely to be stopped. Considering the fact that you are on the British Black List, you must have known that you were deliberately infringing the law all along the line."

His Worship asked Mr. Messer if he had anything more to say on the matter, and Mr. Messer replied it was a serious case and if His Worship sent defendant to prison he would convey anything he (defendant) said to His Excellency the Governor.

His Worship sentenced defendant to prison for six months.

Postage Stamps in China.

The British Post Office gives notice that stamps not surcharged "China" will not be accepted in payment of postage after December 31st, 1917, as has already been notified. This applies to all British Post Offices in China.—*Central China Post.*

An Interesting Announcement.

The invitations for the marriage of Mr. Borgeois and Mr. Baniel of the C. M. Customs, Tientsin, have been issued, and the ceremony was to take place on Saturday the 15th inst. in all Saints Church, Tientsin.

largest rubber plantation in the Philippines islands on the island of Basilan. A ship building yard will soon begin operations on the Basilan island. The immigration of Filipinos from the north is increasing. Mindanao seems to have a prosperous future assured.

According to these reports there are a few cases of rinderpest in Cagayan, Balacan and Rizal, Batangas, Mindoro, Laguna, Sorsogon, Zambanga, Davao, Guinobatan. Cebu City, and in Leyte. A few cases of cholera were reported in Iloilo and Negros Occidental. It continues in Barili, Cebu, Minglanilla, Negros and San Fernando. Rabol is practically free from it.

—*Manila Daily Bulletin.*

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

Four Cases On The Calendar.

The December Criminal Sessions opened this morning at the Supreme Court before Sir William Rees Davies, when there only four cases on the calendar. Two of these were in connection with returned banishedes, one in connection with robbery and assault by three men, and the other in connection with a counterfeit coining apparatus.

Returned Banishedes Sentenced.

The first case dealt with was that in which Keung Mun, alias Lau Mun, was charged with disobeying a banishment order, to which he pleaded guilty.

It was stated by Mr. G. H. Wakeman (Crown Solicitor) that the defendant was arrested on November 14. There were five previous convictions, the first being in 1908 for larceny. The next was in December, 1909, when he was banished for five years. He was again arrested on February 1, 1910, for larceny and returning from banishment, when he was again banished but was re-arrested in October of the same year for larceny. In May, he was banished for 20 years, but was arrested in November last.

The prisoner admitted that he had been banished several times, and said that he only came back this time on his way to his native home.

His Lordship said that the Colony did not want men of the prisoner's class here, although the man seemed determined to give it the benefit of his company. The sentence would be three years' hard labour.

Lo Hop, alias Lo On, alias Chan Yau, was also charged with returning from banishment and admitted the offence.

The Crown Solicitor stated that the man was arrested on November 27. He had been banished three times before—in 1915, in 1916 and again last year, when he was banished for life.

Prisoner said he had come to Hongkong to look for his son, who had run away after being beaten.

His Lordship sentenced the man to two years' hard labour.

A Trio of Cowards.

Three men, named Au Yin, Lam Tsui, and Ng Fuk, were charged with committing robbery with violence, there being two counts to the indictment against each man. They all pleaded guilty.

The Crown Solicitor stated that the offence took place in Lower Macao Road on December 3. Two women and two small children were in the house at about nine o'clock in the morning, when a knock was heard at the door, someone saying that they had some money to pay one of the women. As soon as the door was opened, the three men, who were armed with knives and pepper, rushed in and seized the two women, bound and gagged them and took them to a cubicle at the rear of the premises. They also threatened the two children. Boxes were broken open and a quantity of jewellery and money taken away. During the proceedings someone came to the door, which had been fastened, and asked if anything unusual was going on and the men answered "No." Shortly afterwards the door was burst open by the police and Inspector Brown, who had heard of what was going on and was waiting at the foot of the stairs, caught two of them trying to get away. A Chinese constable secured the third man. When taken to the station, jewellery was found on the first man and money on second. Some of the property had not been recovered and it was thought that there was a fourth man who did not go in the house, but who was outside, to whom was passed some of the goods missing. He had got away.

Prisoners had nothing to say. Previous convictions were proved against the first and second prisoners.

His Lordship told the accused that they were a trio of cowards to attack two defenceless women. He was glad that the law of the Colony allowed him to inflict a little of the physical punishment they inflicted on the hapless woman. So long as he adminis-

FOOTBALL NOTES.

The Christmas Matches.

Two good matches have been arranged for Boxing Day so that lovers of football will have an opportunity of witnessing some good sport.

The chief match is England v. Scotland, on the Club Ground at 4 p.m., and the following have been selected to represent the respective teams.

England:—Goal, Crocker, Navy; backs, Crocker and Black, Navy; half-backs, Townsend, R.G.A., Smith R.E., and Horlop, R.E. forwards, Hutchison, Navy; Llewellyn, Navy; Sayers, Middlesex; Green, R.G.A.; Waldon, Middlesex.

Scotland:—Goal, Rodger, Club; backs, Irvine and McCubbin, Club; half-backs, Chasells, Club; Stewart, Club; White, R.E.; forwards, Youngman, R.G.A.; Cook, Middlesex; Gordon, R.E.; McTavish, Club; Stalker, Club.

Referee.—Mr. Wright.
As will be seen, the Navy is well represented in the English side, no less than five being included in the team. This will no doubt cause much surprise to many. Scotland have quite a useful side, and if they turn out as shown above, they should win comfortably.

The other match is the Military of the 2nd Div. versus The Rest. The teams are:

Military:—Goal, Glenny, S. & D.; backs, Jones, R.G.A., and Lawrence, S. & D.; half-backs, Sharman, R.G.A., Waller, R.E.; French, Middlesex; forwards, Millards, R.E.; Watson, R.G.A.; Osborne, R.E.; Connor, S. & D.; Jones, J., R.G.A.

The Rest:—Goal, U.M. Omar, St. Joseph's; backs, Ching Hon, St. Chins Ath. and E. Hyndman, St. J.; half-backs, Pasco, Kowloon; Johnson, St. J.; Leung Tai Fong, S.C.A.; forwards, R. Omar, St. J.; Moosden, Kowloon; Hyndman, St. J.; Au Kit Sang, S.C.A.; Kwo Po Kun, S.C.A.

Referee.—Lieut. Attwell.
This match starts at 2.30 p.m. on the Club Ground.

The price of admission to the stand for this match is 50 cents and the seats in front 20 cents.

For the England v. Scotland match, the stand will be \$1, and the seats in front 50 cents. The whole of the proceeds will be in aid of the Halifax Relief Fund, and the Star and Garter Fund.

tered justice on the Colony he down was going to do his utmost to put those disgraceful cases of robbery with violence. He would sentence them all to six years with hard labour on both counts, to run concurrently and to fourteen strokes each with the "cat."

Counterfeit Coin Case.

Chang Kee, alias Kwok Tsui, was charged with being in possession of dies for coining and also with being in possession of a cutting engine for making counterfeit coins. He denied the offences.

The following were empanelled on the jury:—Messrs. S. W. A. Uddall, C. B. Brooks, E. L. Mathias, J. J. Jonckheer, E. L. Sim, J. Mitchell, and A. Jenkins.

The Crown Solicitor stated that there were five dies, corresponding to half guilders of the Netherlands Government. This was a curious case, for one man had already been sentenced in connection with it. The prisoner was the informer in the case at the last Criminal Sessions, but it could now be proved that he was the prime mover in the setting up of the establishment which was raided at Sham Shui Po. It was a bit of a mystery as to why he had given information with regard to his own business, but his accomplices, as well as the man who was previously sentenced, would be giving evidence against him.

Evidence was then taken, the witnesses including the Consul General for the Netherlands, who spoke to the dies being similar to the dies used for making half guilders.

Prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to five years' hard labour.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The opinions expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the "Hongkong Telegraph."]

CEMENT.

[To the Editor of the "Hongkong Telegraph."]

Sir,—I notice with some surprise the use being made of cement in some of the building operations proceeding in the Colony, obviously from Haiphong. Is this an indication that cement can be imported cheaper than it can be purchased locally, or that our own Cement Co. is so stuporously busy that it cannot "fill" local orders?

Yours etc.

GREEN'S SHAREHOLDER.

Hongkong, Dec. 18, 1917.

GERMAN WIRELESS FOR CHINA.

Protest by British Minister.

Peking, Dec. 6.—There is now no doubt that the wireless telegraphy contract involves a large extension in this country of the German Telefunken system which has been already established at Kalgan, Peking, Chefoo, Hankow, Shanghai and Foochow.

Mr. Larsen, under the guise of the Danish firm of Larsen and Company, is really acting as the agent of Siemens, Schuckert, who are to supply the money and materials.

Sir John Jordan, the British Minister, has demanded from the Chinese Government that the contract should be cancelled.

Presumably the usual inducements were offered the Minister of the Navy to obtain his signature to the contract, the irregular character of which is evident from the fact that it was not put through the Danish Legation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the ordinary way. At the same time the late Cabinet sanctioned the contract, and it is evidence of the persistency of German influence in China that German influence is strong enough to induce the Government improperly to deal with the declared enemy of the country.

Naturally Danish opinion here has been considerably aroused by the transaction, but there is no disposition in foreign circles to attach blame to Denmark as the German affiliations of Mr. Larsen are well known to be of long standing.—*N. C. Daily News.*

AMERICAN TELEGRAMS.

The following are from the *Manila Daily Bulletin*:—
Socialists Pledge Undivided Support.

Washington, December 18.—Mr. Garard, editor of the Socialist paper *An Appeal to Reason*, pledges the unqualified support of the United States Socialists to the Allies on the basis of the President's recent Message to Congress.

Cuban War Resolution Delayed.
Washington, December 10.—A message from Havana states that the resolution declaring war on Austria has been delayed pending official advice from the United States.

Sentence Deferred.
San Francisco, December 10.—The passing of sentence on Von Brincken, of the local German Consulate, who pleaded guilty in connection with the Tinda plot case, has been deferred until January 3.

Important Decisions.
A dispatch from Washington states that the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the laws "dry" law, and has reversed the decision of the lower court in the picketing case, illegalising certain phases of that verdict.

The Torpedoing of the Jacob Jones.

Latest reports regarding the sinking of the American destroyer Jacob Jones in the war zone state that there were 44 survivors including Commander Bagley and five line officers. Ensign Stanton Falk had died of wounds suffered when the vessel was abandoned. The message states that the boat was torpedoed at night.

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OUR AIRPLANE FLEET.

What Britain is Doing.

In an interview in London, Major-General Sir David Henderson, for some time head of the British Air Board, warns the United States against what may be termed excess of standardisation in airplane construction. This is a knotty problem. Without a good deal of standardisation of parts it would be impossible to turn out thousands of airplanes and keep them in repair. On the other hand, evolution in design has been so rapid in Europe since the War began that each new terror of the air was soon consigned to the scrap heap, or withdrawn for the training of novices. With Sopwith and Fokker the Germans raised the skies for a while, but vastly improved machines are now fighting for supremacy in the air on the western front. For war purposes the airplanes with which the European combatants began the struggle are now archaic.

Perhaps it is because British construction has always been in a state of transition and experiment that General Henderson looks with misgiving upon standardisation on any large scale. Certain it is that the British, who entered the War with eighty airplanes, none of which could fly faster than as many miles in an hour, have performed almost a miracle in developing their air service. The Royal Flying Corps did, indeed, save Sir John French's expeditionary army in the retreat from Mons by vigilant and tireless reconnaissance; but at the outbreak of war the Germans could show at least seven machines for every one the British had, and the German superiority in personnel was overwhelming. By the time the battle of the Somme opened, let July, 1916, the British had won in the stern chase, which seemed like a furlon hope, and in that long drawn out offensive they drove the Ger-

mans from the air above the fighting line. To-day the British still have an advantage in spite of the swiftness of the German monthly bulletins. Like ourselves, the British had to begin by designing the right kind of motor. Originally they used a French engine and a German magneto. The fact of the matter is they had precious little time for standardisation as a system.

Still, as has been said, standardisation is essential to the American plan of the most efficient airplane navy in the world; but it must not be carried to an extreme. American inventiveness should be able to master the problem of progressive standardisation. The expression describes the policy of the Germans, who have had remarkable success with their engines. But as improvements are made the Americans should be ready to re-standardise. We must have the most powerful engines and the latest planes that money can buy. With considerably more than half a billion to spend on the air service we will excel in it.

An unchallengeable supremacy in fighting and bombing machines was the War; still, we must not let the grass grow under our feet. Only the other day General George O. Squier, Chief Signal Officer of the Army, advertised for 100,000 machinists, electricians, carpenters, and gasoline engine men. They are wanted in the aviation section of the Signal Corps to keep the army airplanes in repair. The incident is suggestive. We have not as yet the airplanes to keep in repair, but only a nucleus. There is a vast amount of work to be done before the American manufacturers are fairly started on their record-breaking enterprises. A good beginning has been made with the Liberty motor. It may not be the best in the world—General Henderson, indeed, hints at "anything troublesome"—but if the Liberty needs improvement they will follow fast. Perhaps it is not extravagant to say that in a few months we shall be turning out airplanes faster than our visitors can "assimilate." *The New York Times.*

NOTICES.

WAI KEE.

FLAC & SAILMAKER
No. 129, Des Voeux Road Central
Top Floor,
HONGKONG.
Telephone No. 1833

ASAHI BEER.



POST OFFICE.

The Parcel Post Service to British East Africa and Egypt (except for members of the Expeditionary Force), and to Abyssinia, Bagdad, Eritrea, French Somali Coast, Italian Somaliland, Portuguese East Africa, Zanzibar and Russia have been suspended.

On and after the 1st October, 1917, the rate of postage on letters from Hongkong to Fathah, Chan Chuen, and Whampoa will be 4 cents for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Correspondence addressed to enemy subjects in China, Siam, Siberia and Portuguese East Africa, Persia and Morocco cannot be transmitted.

The Service to Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire are suspended.

Uninsured parcels for the United Kingdom will in future be forwarded from Hongkong in bags and the Public are therefore advised to pack such parcels very carefully.

Letters franked at the 4 cents rate addressed to Yunnanfu and Mengzi and other places in the Province of Yunnan should be superscribed with the words "For delivery by the Chinese Post Office."

Parcels for Greece cannot be accepted for transmission unless accompanied by a special permit issued by the British Minister at Athens.

Arrangements have been made for the transmission of parcels to the United Kingdom via Canada.

The rates of postage are as follows:—
Parcel not over 3 lbs. 90 cents.
Do. 7 lbs. \$1.80
Do. 11 lbs. 2.70

No insurance can be effected on parcels sent by this route.

IMPORT PROHIBITIONS.

The public are informed that the undermentioned articles are prohibited from importation into the United Kingdom, either by letter post or by parcel post:—

Gold manufactured or unmanufactured including gold coin and articles consisting partly of or containing gold; All manufactures of silver other than silver watches and silver watch cases; Jewellery of any description.

Letters and parcels containing such articles cannot therefore be accepted for transmission by the Post Office.

The Parcel Post service to Aden (except for parcels for military and naval addresses) has been suspended.

FRENCH PARCEL REGULATIONS.

The Public are informed that the new regulations adopted by the French Customs insist that senders of parcels addressed to France, Corsica and Algeria must fill in the columns of the regular Customs Declaration particularly and exactly, omitting none of the headings comprised therein.

It is furthermore absolutely necessary to show in the aforesaid declaration (1) The full name and address of the addressee (2) A statement as to whether the contents are intended for State supplies or not.

LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS OUTWARD.

Tai O.—Week days, 5 p.m.
Tai Po.—Week days, 10 a.m.; Sundays, 9.30 a.m.
Cheung Chow.—Week days, 7.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Shatouk, Shatin and Sheungshui.—Week days, 4 p.m.
Abel, Aberdeen, Ping Shan, Sai Kung, San Tin and Stanley.—Week days, 4.30 p.m.
Canton, Sanshui, and Wuchow.—Week days, 7.30 a.m.; Registration 5 p.m.; Letters 6 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Macao.—Week days, 1.15 a.m., 1.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.
Kowloon.—Week days, 6 p.m. Except Saturdays; Sundays, 5 p.m.
Kwai Tsang.—Week days, 10 a.m., 4 p.m.; Sundays, 9 a.m.

FROM SHEUNGWAN WESTERN BRANCH P.O.

Macao.—Week days, 7.30 a.m., 1.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 a.m.; Holidays, 7.30 a.m., 1.30 p.m.
Canton.—Week days, 7.30 a.m., 9.30 p.m.; Sundays, 9.30 p.m.; Holidays, 7.30 a.m., 9.30 p.m.
Tai Po.—Week days, 9.30 a.m.; Sundays, 9.30 a.m.; Holidays, 9.30 a.m.
Shatouk.—Week days, 5.30 p.m.; Sundays, 5.30 p.m.; Holidays, 5.30 p.m.
Kowloon.—Week days, 6 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m.; Holidays, 5 p.m.
Kwai Tsang.—Week days, 4 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 6 p.m.; Holidays, 9 p.m.

MOVEMENTS OF STEAMERS.

Telegraphic advice from the San Francisco office of the China Mail S.S. Co. shows that the ss. CHINA, arrived at this port on Wednesday, December 12, 1917.

WEATHER REPORT.

December 18d. 12h. 12m.—No returns from Indo-China. Pressure has decreased considerably over N. Japan owing to the passage of a depression to the north of Hokkaido; it has increased elsewhere, especially over N. China, the anticyclone having regained considerable intensity.

Fresh to strong monsoon will prevail along the China Coast, and over the N. China Sea.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inch. Total since January 1st 31.43 inches against an average of 32.63 inches.

FORECAST FOR THE 24 HOURS ENDING AT NOON TO-MORROW.

Direction Force

1 Hongkong to Gap Rock N.E. winds, fresh to strong; fine.

2 Formosa Channel N. winds, strong to a gale.

3 South coast of China between 12° N. and 14° N. The same as No. 1.

4 South coast of China between 14° N. and 16° N. The same as No. 1.

China Coast Meteorological Register.

December 18, a.m.

Station Hour Barometer Temperature Humidity Wind Direction Force Weather

Vostock 5a 29.55 17 n 2 0

Nemuro 5a 29.0 w 6 0

Nakodate 5a 29.44 w 6 0

Tokio 5a 29.75 m 1 0

Kochi 5a 30.03 m 1 0

Nagasaki 5a 30.17 m 1 0

Kagami 5a 30.13 m 1 0

Yokohama 5a 30.13 m 1 0

Amoy 5a 30.19 m 1 0

Shanghai 5a 30.17 m 1 0

Wanghai 5a 30.02 m 1 0

Hankow 5a 30.28 26 87 n 5 f

Chungking 5a 30.47 25 62 n 1 b

Shanghai 5a 30.39 32 68 n 6 b

Shanghai 5a 30.20 32 79 n 4 b

Amoy 5a 30.21 32 79 n 4 b

Swatow 5a 30.25 35 93 e 4 0

Taipei 5a 30.11 35 nne 4 b

Taipei 5a 30.08 37 n 6 0

Koshun 5a 30.01 36 ne 7 b

Peking 5a 30.12 39 nne 8 0

Canton 5a 30.42 34 66 n 2 0

Gap Rock 5a 30.13 54 74 n 1 b

Macao 5a 30.13 54 74 n 1 b

Wuchow 5a 3.14 54 70 n 1 0

Shanghai 5a 30.13 54 70 n 1 0

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ENTERTAINMENTS.

VICTORIA THEATRE.

Tuesday, 18th Dec., 1917.

11th & 12th EPISODES of the
"GRIP OF EVIL."

Pathe's Gazettes
and Comics.

TO-MORROW, 19th AND THURSDAY, 20th

THE
MISSSES AILEEN & DORIS WOODS

Famous Society Entertainers.

Booking at ANDERSON'S.

The Public are informed that the Pit will not be available on either of these two nights, as it has been taken over for the Soldiers and Sailors.

RESERVED STALLS \$2.00 D.C. \$1.00

THE SEAFLEANE.

Direct Flight from Mother Ship.

The seaplane now flies without the necessity of a preliminary launching. Machinery devised by an American naval officer enables it to start directly from the deck of its "mother ship." The plane gets its speed, not from its own motor, as a landplane does when it makes its start, but from a cable attached to a compressed-air cylinder. In fact, the plane is thrown into the air as a man might throw a baseball or a bomb, with such speed that its motor can then continue to carry it forward. Hitherto a hydro-aeroplane carried on shipboard has been able to start only in smooth water. Now the roughness of the sea will be no obstacle to its use. The advantages of the new plane need no amplification. Says a writer in the *Popular Science Monthly* (New York, November):—

"Long before the engagements of the German and British fleets in the North Sea focused the eyes of the world upon the possibilities of scouting in the air, the officers of our Navy had foreseen the part that the flying machine would play in battle. But they were prevented from carrying their vision into reality by the difficulties of launching a seaplane. When the water is rough a flying-boat is so battered about by the waves that it is unable to make that preliminary run without which it can not fly. In the earliest experiments a platform was built over the decks of one of our warships, and a flying machine actually succeeded not only in launching itself from that platform, but even in alighting upon it. But a platform is an encumbrance. When a ship is to be cleared for action it is to the way.

"For some years Capt. Washington L. Chambers, of our Navy, has been working on this launching problem. He has at last devised an ingenious catapult with which some of our ships are provided and which seems to meet the technical requirements of those who must fight on the sea. Captain Chambers's launching device is in reality a little elevated railway built on the after-deck. On the track runs a little car which carries the seaplane. The car shoots forward carrying with it the seaplane. When the end of the track is reached, the seaplane is projected into the air, its motor having been started before the run. The car returns automatically to the starting position after having struck a buffer.

"What propels the car? Not the power of the engine, as might be supposed at first blush, but a simple piece of machinery consisting of cable, tackle, and compressed-air cylinder. The function of the tackle

CHINESE AFFAIRS.

Policy of the New Premier.

Wang Shih-chen (says the Peking correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, writing on December 6) commenced life 30 years ago as a student under Li Hung-chang. Service under that illustrious man made him ambitious, and he hoped to do great things for his country. But after several decades of official life the new Premier, as he told the staff of the Cabinet when he assumed office, realised that nothing can be done in this world without difficulty. Consequently his view of life has changed, and of late he has not cared to participate in worldly affairs. His health is feeble, and he knows himself ignorant of diplomatic, financial, administrative, educational, and industrial matters, while even in military affairs, of which he ought to know something, he has to confess that he is behind the times.

For all these reasons he disliked taking office again, and was only persuaded by the President and Premier Tuan Chi-jai because he was like a man standing at a cross road, blocking the gateway against those who would go forward. Rather than stand in anybody's way he allowed himself to be shoved into the Premiership, and hopes to steer a clear course by observation of three guiding principles: (1) to act according to conscience; (2) to follow good advice; and (3) to shun theory in favour of practice. The Premier finally said that he intended to make no changes in the Cabinet office, and hoped that every member thereof would readily criticise him in the handling of his work.

Humility is an admirable trait in human character, but it is a question if it is becoming in the Prime Minister of a great country. If this is the spirit in which Wang Shih-chen has taken office, the probability is that he will soon have to give way to somebody less scrupulous and more enterprising. It is understood that General Wang Shih-chen insists on resigning the post of Minister of War and that General Tuan Chi-jai is his probable successor.

It is not unlike that performed by the pulleys that hoist a safe from the sidewalk to a fourth or fifth-story window. By the time the seaplane has reached the end of the track, it will have a speed of at least forty miles an hour, which, in normal conditions, keeps it aloft if the propellers are in motion. Of course, the seaplane can be automatically switched from the car.

The elevated structure upon which the car is carried is no exception that it can be removed very quickly when the ship is to be cleared for action.

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